

# The Gargantuan Gift: A Holiday Puppet Show

by | Marilyn Lohnes

• Storytime •

Grades  
PK-3

In this puppet show, Santa finds himself in a bit of a tight spot. Fortunately, everybody lends a helping hand! As a lead-in or a follow-up read aloud, consider a version of *The Enormous Turnip* by Aleksei Tolstoy to see if your students find the similarities between this story and the puppet play. You might find other shared themes as well, which can foster a discussion about helping others.

After the show, you might play some well-known holiday tunes. Santa, Mrs. Claus, and the entire cast can all sing and dance along with the audience to the music. Have fun!

## Making the Puppets

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### Patterns

People puppet  
Cat puppet  
Dog puppet  
Reindeer puppet

### Fabric

Appropriately colored felt or vellux

### Other Materials Needed

- Fabric paint or markers
- Doll eyes and noses (or make your own from felt)
- White pom-pom for Santa's hat
- White fun fur for the trim of Santa's coat (optional)

### Instructions

1. Copy and cut out puppet patterns from pages 7–10. You may wish to enlarge or reduce the pattern, depending on the hand size of performers. You can also experiment with the face shape to create different faces on the people puppets.



2. For each character, cut two of the pattern pieces from felt or vellux.
3. Stitch or glue the body pieces together, leaving the bottom open.
4. If using doll eyes and noses, attach through one side of the felt only. Anchor backings will be on the inside of the puppet.
5. For the dog puppet, glue the ears down.
6. Create hair, paws, antlers, etc. by gluing felt shapes. Be adventurous—design your own hairstyles!
7. Provide detailing (i.e., smiles, eyelashes) with fabric paint or markers
8. Give the people puppets clothing by dressing them in small doll's clothes, or by creating a wardrobe from fabric or felt.

## The Gargantuan Gift

### A Puppet Play by Marilyn Lohnes

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#### Puppets

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**Santa**

**Mrs. Claus**

**Blitzen the Reindeer**

**Farmer Brown**

**Mrs. Brown**

**Dog (Rover)**

**Cat (Fluffy)**

#### Props

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- Sleigh
- Large chimney
- Boot
- Large gift-wrapped box
- Toy tractor, suitable for puppet

#### Settings

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- In the sleigh
- Inside the Browns' farmhouse
- The roof of the Brown's farmhouse

#### Scene One

*(Santa and Mrs. Claus in sleigh)*

**Santa:** Well my dear, finally: The last present for Christmas.

**Mrs. Claus:** And what a present it is! Just *look* at the size of it!

**Santa:** Oh, ho ho, so right you are, dear. I think this is the first time I had to make a second trip with presents—and and all for just *one* present.

**Mrs. Claus:** Well, you're almost there. You just need to deliver this one present and you'll be done. Then we can go home and I'll make you a nice cup of cocoa.

**Santa:** Ho, ho ho! Cocoa sounds good—just no more milk tonight!

**Mrs. Claus:** And some cookies . . .

**Santa:** Ho, ho ho! Sounds delicious!

**Mrs. Claus:** And then I can tuck you in and let you sleep for a few days.

**Santa:** Ho, ho, ho! Now that's what I want to hear. It's been an especially long evening with this second trip.

**Mrs. Claus:** Yes, but if you hadn't had to come back, I wouldn't have been able to go for a ride with you, dear.

**Santa:** And what a treat it has been having you with me.

**Mrs. Claus:** Now, tuck in the blanket around your legs. It's getting chilly.

**Santa:** I'm fine, dear.

**Mrs. Claus:** Fine, nothing! You'll catch a cold for sure. Now, let me fix the blanket for you. *(Reaches down, pretends to adjust blanket)*

**Santa:** Dear, I'm fine!

**Mrs. Claus:** Sit still! I'm almost finished. *(Reaches down again, sled starts to slide)*

**Santa:** Careful! I'm losing control of the sleigh!

**Mrs. Claus:** *(Still reaching down)* Well if you would just sit still for a minute—

**Santa:** I've lost control of the sleigh! We're going to crash!

**Mrs. Claus/Santa:** *(Together)*  
EEEEEEAAAAGH!

*(Sleigh, Santa and Mrs. Claus slide offstage; loud crash is heard)*



### Scene Two

*(Inside the Browns' farmhouse)*

**Farmer Brown:** *(Rushes onstage)* What was that? It sounded like an earthquake. Well, actually I've never heard an earthquake, but I'm guessing it sounds something like that.

**Mrs. Brown:** *(Calling offstage)* Come back to bed. It's not morning yet.

**Farmer Brown:** *(Calling to Mrs. Brown)* It's almost morning, and Santa hasn't come yet. *(Pausing)* You don't suppose he forgot us?

**Mrs. Brown:** *(Comes onstage)* Don't be silly. Santa never forgets anyone.

**Farmer Brown:** But he should have delivered by now. We're near the top of the list. B for Brown. He should be finished by now.

**Mrs. Brown:** Well, maybe he went from Z to A this year.

**Farmer Brown:** Why would he do that?

**Mrs. Brown:** *(Annoyed)* I don't know. Maybe he's bored. Come on, let's go back to bed.

**Farmer Brown:** Oh, all right. But only for a little while. It's almost Christmas morning.

**Mrs. Brown:** My goodness! You're worse than any child I've ever known! Come along!

*(Farmer and Mrs. Brown exit)*

### Scene Three

Santa and Mrs. Claus are on top of roof with present. Chimney is to the side.

**Santa:** Whew, that was a close call.

**Mrs. Claus:** It sure was. We just barely missed the hay silo back there. *(Looks around)* Where do you think we are?

**Santa:** *(Looks around)* You're not going to believe this, but...

**Mrs. Claus:** What?

**Santa:** Well, we're right where we're supposed to be.

**Mrs. Claus:** You mean...

**Santa:** Yes, dear, we're at Farmer Brown's house.

**Mrs. Claus:** Why, that's wonderful! Now all we have to do is get this present down the chimney, and we can go home!

**Santa:** Let's start moving it to the chimney. *(Santa and Mrs. Claus strain to move box to chimney).*

**Mrs. Claus:** *(Out of breath)* Good gracious! What is this anyway?

**Santa:** How many requests did we get for toy tractors this year, dear?

**Mrs. Claus:** Oh, I would say about a few dozen million.

**Santa:** Yes, and how many requests for a real tractor?

**Mrs. Claus:** A real tractor? How many children would want a real tractor? Farmer Brown's son must have a real appetite for adventure.

**Santa:** It's not for his son.

**Mrs. Claus:** *(Pausing)* His daughter?

## Storytime

**Santa:** Nope. He doesn't have any children.

**Mrs. Claus:** You don't mean...

**Santa:** I do. Farmer Brown himself wrote to me. I can't let him down.

**Mrs. Claus:** But he asked you for a tractor?

**Santa:** That he did. First one ever. Now, let's get this tractor down the chimney.

**Mrs. Claus:** How do you suppose he's going to get the tractor out the door?

**Santa:** Not my worry, dear. I only have to get it down the chimney.

**Mrs. Claus:** (*Pushing*) We're almost there! Now, to lift the present into the chimney. (*Santa and Mrs. Claus grunt and groan and try to lift box.*)

**Santa:** Hmmm. This isn't working. How about I climb into the chimney. I can pull and you can push. (*Descends offstage through chimney*)

**Mrs. Claus:** There we go (*Present moves to chimney*). Now, one or two good pushes and we're done.

**Santa:** (*Offstage*) Dear?

**Mrs. Claus:** Yes dear?

**Santa:** (*Offstage*) I'm stuck.

Mrs. Claus: You're stuck?

**Santa:** (*Sadly*) I'm stuck.

**Mrs. Claus:** Well maybe I'll have to come down the chimney too. I can jump on the present and push you and the present down. (*Climbs on top of the present and begins jumping. The present slowly disappears. Mrs. Claus continues to jump.*)

**Santa:** (*Offstage*) It's working, dear! I'm moving a little. Keep jumping!

**Mrs. Claus:** (*Breathless*) I have to stop for a minute. I just need a quick break. (*Exits*)

**Santa:** Dear? Don't quit now! Hello? HELP!

## Scene Four

*In Farmer Brown's house.*

**Farmer Brown:** (*Rushes onstage*) I know I heard something that time!

**Mrs. Brown:** (*Enters sleepily*) What is it now?

**Farmer Brown:** I definitely heard something. It came from the chimney. (*Looks into chimney*)

**Mrs. Brown:** Well?

**Farmer Brown:** There's a string! I bet Santa left my present in the chimney!

**Mrs. Brown:** Why would he do that?

**Farmer Brown:** (*Excitedly*) Don't care! Doesn't matter! Here comes my present! (*Pulls hard*)

**Santa:** (*Offstage*) OOOwww!

**Farmer Brown:** I almost have it! (*Pulls again, large boot appears onstage*)

**Mrs. Brown:** A boot?

**Farmer Brown:** All Santa got me was a boot? Wait! Maybe there's more! (*Reaches up chimney*)

**Santa:** (*Offstage*) Hee hee, ho, ho, ho!

**Farmer Brown:** It's a foot! And it's ticklish!

**Santa:** (*Offstage*) Hee, hee, hee, ho ho!

**Farmer Brown:** Maybe he brought me a driver as well as a tractor! Come on, Mabel, help me pull!

**Mrs. Brown:** (*Wraps arms around Farmer Brown and pulls*) Oooff!

**Farmer Brown:** Just a bit more. Come on! Pull! Pull! Pull! (*Both characters pull strenuously*)

**Mrs. Brown:** It's no use, dear. We need more help! Let's see if we can find the cat and the dog. Maybe they can help. (*Exits*)

**Farmer Brown:** Good idea! I'm right behind you! (*Exits*)

**Scene Five:**

*Mrs. Claus is on the roof.*

**Mrs. Claus:** *(Looking down chimney)*

Santa! Are you still there?

**Santa:** *(Offstage)* Where have you been, Dear?

**Mrs. Claus:** I tried to look for help. I've been calling for Blitzen everywhere.

**Santa:** *(Sadly)* It's a shame we didn't bring the whole reindeer team. But for just one present, I thought...

**Mrs. Claus:** Don't you worry, dear. We'll just keep calling. In the meantime, I have my second wind back. I'll try jumping some more. *(Climbs onto top of chimney and begins jumping)* Oooff! Umph!

**Santa:** *(Offstage)* That's it, dear! I moved a little bit. Keep jumping!

**Mrs. Claus:** *(Jumping up and down)* Eeragh! Uuumph! EEEowww! *(Jumps into chimney, now offstage)* Oh NO!

**Santa:** What's wrong?

**Mrs. Claus:** *(Now offstage too)* I think I'm stuck too! Blitzen! Where are you? BLITZEN!

**Blitzen:** *(Appears onstage, looks around, makes snorting noises)*

**Mrs. Claus:** *(Offstage)* Down here, Blitzen! We're in the chimney!

**Blitzen:** *(Walks over to chimney, looks down, makes questioning noises)*

**Santa:** Blitzen! Listen to me! You need to jump on Mrs. Claus and push us all out of the chimney! Do you understand?

**Blitzen:** *(Snorts an affirmative. Takes a running leap [galloping sound heard] and jumps in chimney)*

**Santa/Mrs. Claus:** *(Together)* Ouch! Eeek!

**Blitzen:** *(Takes another galloping leap, jumps into chimney again, with same out-*

*come. Blitzen backs up until he is offstage, screeches and bangs are heard)*

**Santa:** Blitzen? Blitzen! What happened?

**Mrs. Claus:** Sounds to me like he backed up so far he fell off the roof. Guess we'll just have to wait until he climbs the roof again.

**Scene Six:**

*In Farmer Brown's house.*

**Farmer Brown:** *(Rushes back onstage)*

What was that?

**Mrs. Brown:** *(Enters)* You heard something more?

**Farmer Brown:** I definitely heard a thump, then a whack, then a "oooff".

**Mrs. Brown:** And that would be...?



## Storytime

**Farmer Brown:** It doesn't matter. I just want my present. Come on, let's get to work. (Reaches at chimney and begins pulling)

**Mrs. Brown:** Well, you're going to need my help. (Grabs Farmer Brown and begins to pull) Rover! Rover! (Dog enters) Rover, we need you to help us pull.

**Rover:** (Jumps up and down and pants) Ruff! Ruff! (Grabs Mrs. Brown and begins to pull)

**Farmer Brown:** OK, everybody! Pull! Pull! PULL! (Exaggerate each pull with noises of strain, etc.)

**Mrs. Brown:** Oh, it's not enough! Fluffy? Fluffy! Come here! (Cat enters) Fluffy, we need your help too. Come help us pull!

**Fluffy:** (Walks around others purring and rubbing) Meow! Meow! (Grabs Rover and begins to pull)

**Farmer Brown:** OK, everybody, once again! Pull! Pull! PULL! (Exaggerate each pull with noises of strain, etc.)

**Mrs. Brown:** Oh, it's just not quite enough. What will we do now?

(Loud snort is heard offstage. Dog yelps, cat screeches, both run offstage)

**Farmer Brown:** What was that? (Loud galloping heard, then loud crash. Santa, the present, Mrs. Claus and Blitzen all pile into the room. Blitzen immediately gallops offstage)

**Farmer Brown:** Santa! You came! And you brought me a present!

**Santa:** Yes, well, I guess we did. I hope you like it.

**Mrs. Claus:** Now, Mr. Brown. If you would be so kind as to return Santa's boot to him, we'll be on our way.

**Mrs. Brown:** Oh I have it right here. (Gives boot to Santa) Would you like to stay for breakfast?

**Mrs. Claus:** Now that would be very nice, but... (Galloping sounds are heard, Blitzen suddenly enters and carries off Mrs. Claus)

**Santa:** I think Blitzen is a little anxious to get home. He has his own family, you know. Thanks for the boot. Now I'll just head outside and... (Galloping sounds are heard, Blitzen suddenly enters, knocks over Santa and drags him offstage) (Offstage) HO, HO, HO. Merry Christmas to all!

**Farmer Brown:** (Calling offstage) Thank you Santa! Oh boy! Now I get to open my present. (Unwraps present, finds a tractor) Oh boy! Just what I wanted. I hope it works!

**Mrs. Brown:** Now don't you go starting that monstrosity in the house. Take it—

**Farmer Brown:** (Starts tractor) It works just fine! Let's see what it can do!

**Mrs. Brown:** Don't put it in gear! (Tractor moves forward, Mrs. Brown screams and runs offstage)

**Farmer Brown:** This is the best Christmas ever! I can't wait to try it outside! (Slowly exits)

**Mrs. Brown:** (Offstage) You can't go out the door! It's not big enough!

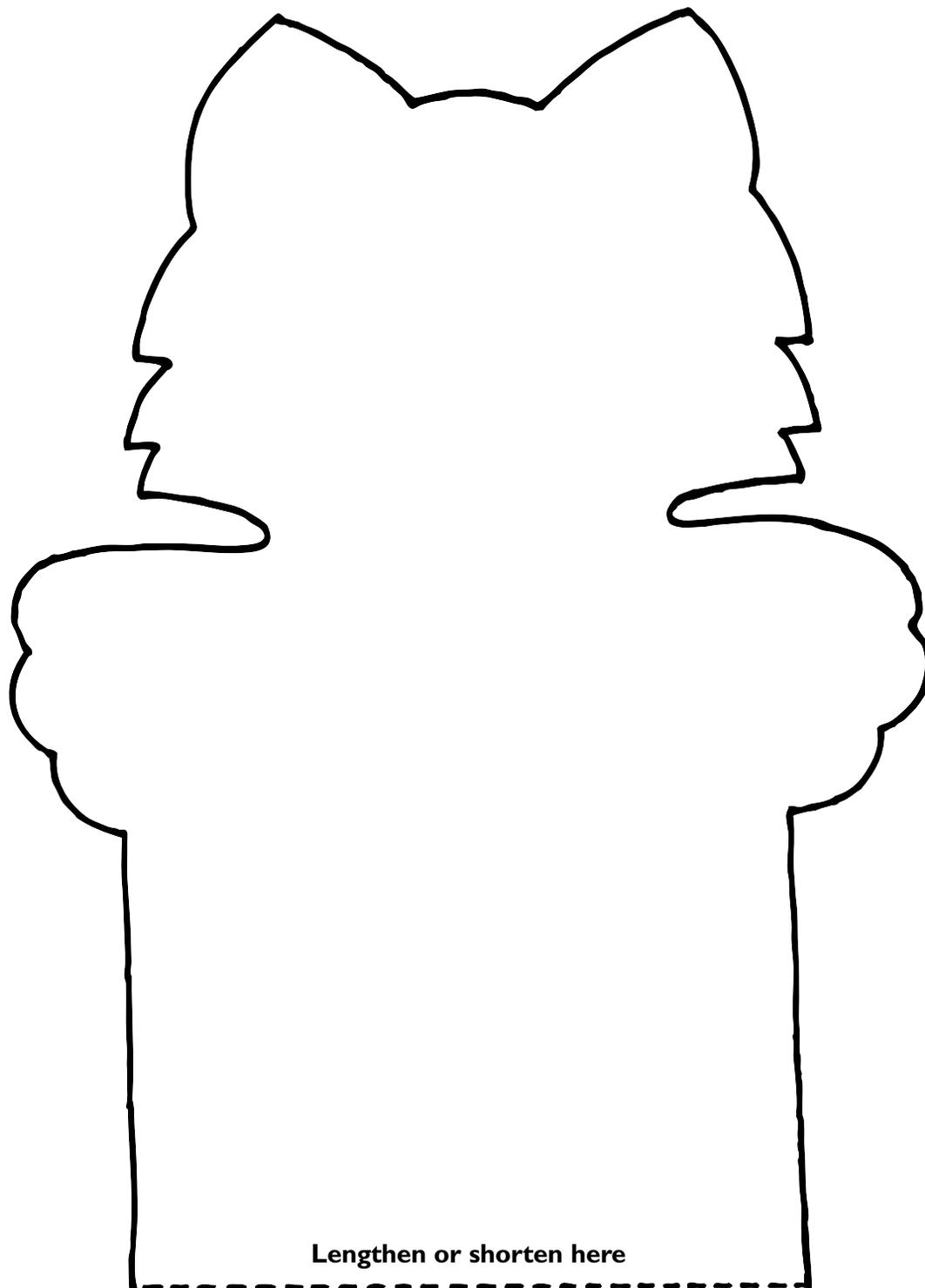
(Loud crashing is heard, tractor noises continue, Farmer Brown is heard singing Christmas songs)

(Music – finale)

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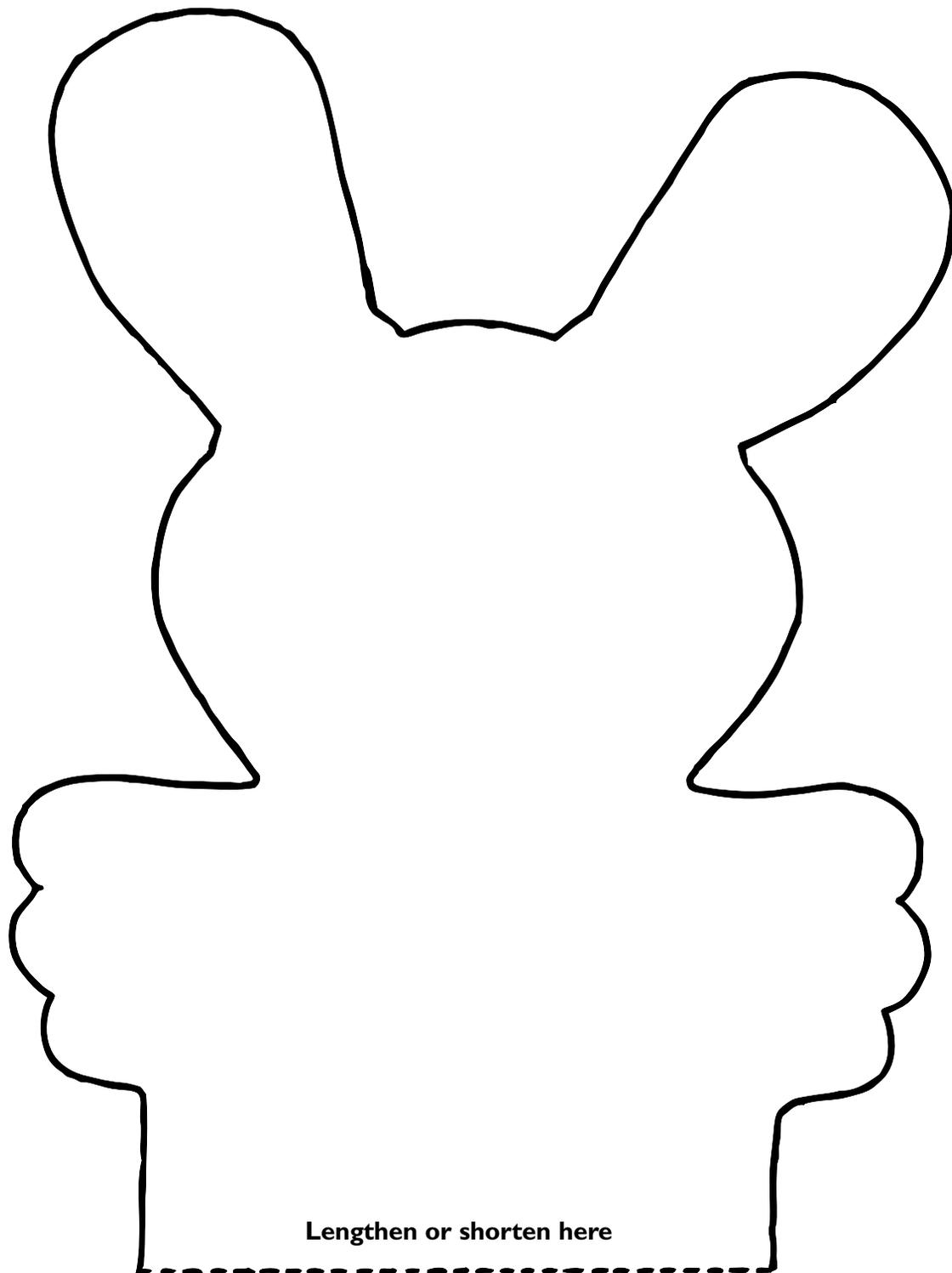
*Marilyn Lohnes has been a professional librarian for more than 20 years, many of which were spent as a children's librarian. She has planned and conducted thousands of children's programs, including a variety of puppet shows, and has presented a number of puppetry workshops for teachers and librarians. You can find some of her other puppet scripts and patterns in Fractured Fairy Tales: Puppet Plays and Patterns, and Storytime Puppet Zoo, both from UpstartBooks.*

# CAT PUPPET PATTERN

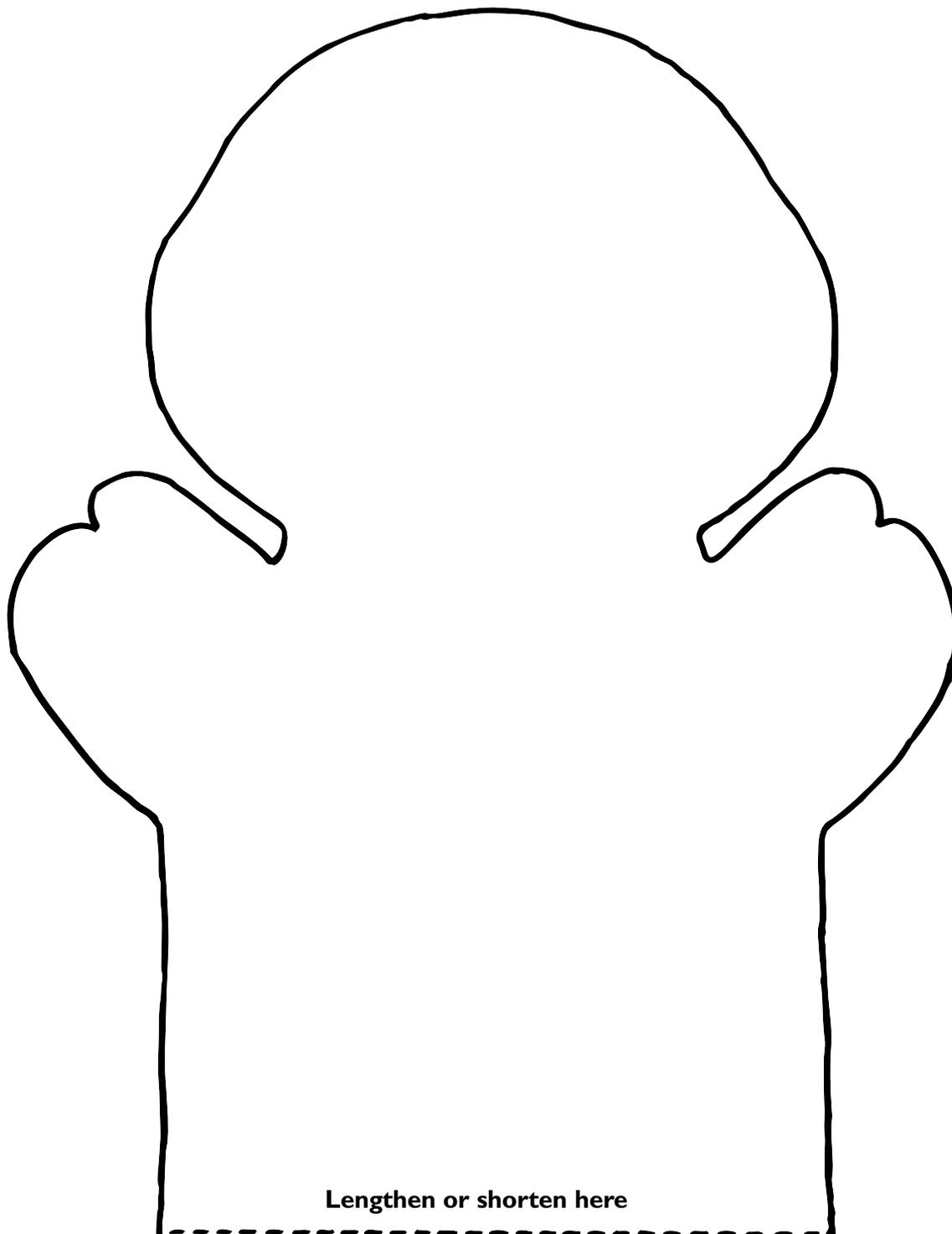


Lengthen or shorten here

# DOG PUPPET PATTERN



# PEOPLE PUPPET PATTERN



# REINDEER PUPPET PATTERN

