

Program Name: I'd Rather Be a Hummingbird

Artist: StoneLion Puppet Theatre

## Special Requirements:

16' x 20' minimum space requirement; flat space preferred--gym floor works great; access to electrical outlet; space available one hour before and one hour after for set up and load out. Teachers must be present at all times during performance.

## Performance Description

This enchanting rod puppet production is based on the folktale by Kenyan Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Wangari Maathai, who studied environmentalism in Kansas. StoneLion's new musical will transport you to a world where you realize it is not the size of the effort, but the fact you tried that matters. StoneLion has recreated Maathai's folktale using indigenous animals native to the Midwest.

when disaster strikes in the form of a forest fire. All the creatures of the forest run away or stand panic stricken waiting for someone else to solve the problem. Only the little hummingbird dares to help. Nigel learns he wants to be like the hummingbird and do the best he can no matter the size of the problem. In this musical adaptation using local species; beaver, geese, bears and more.

Little Nigel the beaver is learning the work of the big beavers



## Educational Objectives & Standards

Students will:

- Learn beaver natural history and the beaver's ability to modify their environment.
- Learn hummingbird natural history.

Standards addressed:

- **Theatre:** Knows character traits that help individuals to succeed.
- **Life Skills:** analyze problems and apply solutions.
- All can work together to solve problems.



**StoneLion Puppet Theatre** is a professional company dedicated to challenging the thought patterns of the young and young at heart through the art of puppetry. They use multiple puppetry styles to bring the magic of theatre to life. **Heather Nisbett-Loewenstein** is the Founder and Artistic Director. She has performed, designed, and/or directed more than 70 different productions for Stone Lion, and works as a puppet

builder and costume designer for professional theaters. Heather has also been a Kansas City Art Institute Continuing Education Teacher and taught Puppetry and Costume at Kansas City Kansas Community College. She holds a Bachelor of Theater Arts degree from Boise State University and earned a Certificate of Theatre at the University of Dublin, Trinity College.

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Animal Facts- provided by Lakeside Nature Center

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List of Resources:

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**Books:**

[The Little Hummingbird](#)  
by Michael Nicoll  
Yahgulanaas

**Videos:**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=btI654R\\_pY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=btI654R_pY)

**Online Resources:**

<http://www.sagecraft.com/puppetry/>

The Puppetry Homepage  
A great website for all things puppetry! What's happening across the country, ask a question, download plans, see what's new.

BEAVER

- The Beaver is the largest rodent in North America and can grow to a length of four and a half feet.
- Beavers mainly eat bark but also like water plants, buds and roots.
- Beavers have very strong teeth and powerful jaws.
- Beavers homes are called lodges and they are made of mud and wood.
- Beavers build dams in order to make habitats more suitable.

HUMMINGBIRD

- The Ruby-throated Hummingbird is the only species of hummingbird that lives east of the Rocky Mountains.
- Hummingbirds eat floral nectar and small insects.
- Hummingbirds consume twice their body weight each day.
- Hummingbirds have very long tongues that they use to lap up nectar, and they feed at least every ten minutes.
- Hummingbirds are the main pollinators for many plants.

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Post-Performance Activities

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1. Discuss meaning of the closing song in the play—

2.

*No Problem*

*No problem is too big or way too small*

*If we remember to give it, give it our all*

*And just do the best we can,  
Simply try and do the best we can  
Just do the best that we can*

Discuss how Nigel's attitudes have changed and discuss how students can apply this philosophy to their lives.

2. Have students walk freely around the room. No touching anyone or talking. Have the kids imagine they are in the forest and what it would be like to walk there. Next have them become the characters from the puppet show. Start with the Beavers, have them make the dam. Pretend the sticks are very heavy and have them all work together. Next have them be the hummingbird. Give them space to fly quickly and freely. Keep exploring and have fun!

Contact KCYA for more information about this and other programs

816.531.4022  
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