

STUDY GUIDE FOR TEACHERS

Grades 1 - 6

Young Sophia: the Dundurn Castle Diary

A table-top puppet play inspired by the diary of Sophia MacNab
written at Dundurn Castle 1846 age 13



Sophia & Minnie MacNab

Welcome to our production of **Young Sophia: the Dundurn Castle Diary** performed by **Studio Babette**, an innovative puppet theatre that has entertained the local Hamilton community for the past three years. We value that you have chosen us as a teaching resource; your students are in for a treat!

Young Sophia: the Dundurn Castle Diary is inspired by the diary of the 13-year old daughter of Hamilton's famous builder of Dundurn castle, Sir Allan Napier MacNab, in 1846. Sophia's life is brought to life through the magic of beautifully hand crafted rod puppets that were modelled on ancient puppets.

This study guide was designed to enhance student learning before and after your visit to Young Sophia. Our performance is a perfect accompaniment to a unit on puppetry in drama, a science unit on flowers and herbs, a thematic unit on the local community of early settlers in Upper Canada and Northern America in social studies and history, and the biographical and diary style of writing in language arts.

Our study guide follows the Ontario Curriculum for grades 1-8. To access a complete document for all grades and subjects, please visit the detailed description of Ontario elementary curriculum <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/grades.html>

Thank you for choosing Studio Babette's production of **Young Sophia: the Dundurn Castle Diary** for your study trip. We hope that your students' experience here will live on for many years to come!

Sincerely,
Marie Franek, Kerry Corrigan, Helena Adamczyk
Studio Babette Puppet Theatre
www.studiobabette.ca
puppets@studiobabette.ca

Young Sophia: the Dundurn Castle Diary is inspired by the diary of Sophia MacNab, written in 1846 when she was 13 years old and living in the Hamilton, Ontario mansion with her younger sister Mary (Minnie), her older step-sister Anne Jane, her father Sir Allan Napier MacNab, her bed-ridden mother Mary and many relatives and servants. All events are based in fact with some fictional extrapolations.

Sophia MacNab married the Rt. Honourable William Coutts Keppel, Viscount Bury, later the 7th Earl of Albermarle in Dundurn Castle, Nov. 15th, 1855. Sophia is great-great-grandmother of Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, wife of Prince Charles, future King of England.

CHARACTERS

People puppets

1. **Sophia** – Sophia MacNab, 13
2. **Minnie** – Mary, Sophia's younger sister, 11,
3. **MacNab** - Sir Allan MacNab, 48, Sophia's Father
4. **Reid** - William Reid, the gardener

Animal puppets

5. & 6. **Horses** **Jim** (blonde, Sophia's) & **George** (black, Minnie's)
7. & 8. **Dogs** **Finn** (red male, Minnie's) & **Finette** (white female, Sophia's)

Live Actors

12. **Kitty**, the upstairs maid
13. **Thompson**, Mr. Thompson, the school teacher
14. **Cook**

cast:

Kerry Corrigan	puppet Sophia	plays Thompson
Helena Adamczyk	puppets Minnie, Reid	plays Cook
Marie Franek	puppets MacNab, Sleigh, dogs	plays Kitty

Shadow Puppets – Mamma's Room

Mamma - Mary (Stuart) McNab, 34, in bed
Anne Jane - step-sister, 19 and **Minnie**
Aunt Sophia - Mary MacNab's sister and **Sophia**
Sir Allan MacNab

Shadow Puppets – Party Guests

lady
couple
Captain Grisdon
Aunt Mary
Sophia (blue dress)

Synopsis of the play

It is a typical day in Dundurn Castle, and Sophia, daughter of Sir Allan Napier MacNab, is writing the events of the day in her diary. The household is as busy as ever. Father is practising a speech to convince his fellow politicians to bring the railway to Hamilton. Sophia's annoying younger sister Minnie is in trouble again with their teacher Mr. Thompson, but happily Mamma, who has been sick for quite a while, is having a good day. Their housemaid Kitty keeps the girls on track with their many chores. The girls recount their daily routine, which includes writing in journals, lessons, praying and reciting catechisms, sewing and sitting with “dear Mamma”.

A trip to town in the horse-drawn cutter turns into a happy catastrophe when the sisters purposely tip the sleigh. The sisters also have great fun watching from an upstairs window as important guests arrive for a fancy ball.

As winter turns to spring, Mamma's condition worsens. The girls hear news from their father that he is bringing them poodle puppies back from a trip to Montreal, but the celebration of this news causes a run-in with the cook. They take turns riding the horses Jim and George in the garden and the

gardener Mr Reid helps them to start their own plots in the large kitchen garden adjacent to the castle which sustains the MacNab family and their large collection of servants. The girls decide to have a watermelon growing contest.

Mamma passes away, and the girls are understandably distraught. Contact with Mr. Reid in the growing garden shows them the healing power of working in nature. Their father's love and good humour restores their outlook on life and the watermelons continue to grow, as the girls play with their beautiful poodle puppies, Finn and Finette.

When Minnie cheats at the watermelon growing contest, Sophia shows her new found maturity on discovering the deceit by playing along with the charade and conceding the win to her little sister. When the puppies go missing and Sophia finds them, Minnie is so overcome with emotion and remorse that she confesses her trickery, Sophia quickly forgives her and the sisters bond is strengthened.

The play ends with Sophia being presented at another fancy ball, while Minnie and Kitty watch with excitement from the upstairs window.

Discussion Points

Historical

What did you think of the tour in Dundurn Castle?

Is it a real castle? Did it have kings?

Who were Sophia and Minnie?

Why was Sir Allan MacNab famous?

He was the boy hero of the War of 1812

He was chiefly responsible for the construction of the Great Western Railway.

Member for Hamilton in the Upper Canada House of Assembly.

What servants lived in the castle and what were their jobs?

What servants did the girls interact with?

What role did Kitty play in their lives?

How was school different from today?

What technology that we take for granted was unavailable to the girls?

What did they do for fun instead?

How did they travel?

What chores did they do?

How are their clothes different from yours?

How were they punished?

How were they rewarded?

Social

Despite the difference in years (166!) how are the lives of Sophia and Minnie similar to yours?

What did they learn from Mr. Reid the gardener?

Why didn't Sophia confront Minnie when she discovered what Minnie did in the garden?

What did the garden teach both girls? *Describe the role of the garden, providing food and flowers for the family, as well as a place of recreation, exercise and comfort.*

How did the girls learn responsibility?

Style of Puppets

All of the puppet in the play were constructed by Studio Babette. We use **tabletop puppets** that are manipulated **with wooden or wire rods**. The heads were sculpted with paper clay over styrofoam and they have a fixed facial, which was painted. Arms are attached to the body and they can move. All costumes are historically accurate, sewn by puppeteer Helena Adamczyk. The puppeteers in our show are visible and are costumed as well as servants circa 1846.

Shadow play is also used, for the scenes in Mamma's room and the arrival of the party-goers into the opulent front entrance of Dundurn Castle with its famous curved staircase.

Rod puppets are centuries old. They evolved from Asian Bunraku and Wayang puppets. Today they are used in almost every culture. Rod puppets got their name because they are on rods or fine sticks. There are many different types of rod puppets. Shadow puppets are rod puppets. Any doll or toy set on rod is a rod puppet. Jim Henson's Rizzo is a typical Rod puppet. Greek oil-parchment shadow puppets are a form of a rod puppet. Also, Javanese Puppets are rod puppets.

Multiple choice questionnaire:

1. Why did Sir Allan want the train to come to Hamilton?

- a) To make himself famous
- b) To make Hamilton accessible for trade to the rest of Canada

2. What illness did Mama have?

- a) Pneumonia
- b) Plague

3. What is the name of the girls' teacher?

- a) Mr. Wellington
- b) Mr. Thompson

4. What chores did Minnie and Sophia have to do?

- a) Read, write, pray and sew
- b) Pray, cook and clean

5. What was the punishment if they failed to do what they were told?

- a) No allowances
- b) No sugar and outings

6. What mischief did they do with the sleigh?

- a) They broke it
- b) They tipped it

7. What pets did they have?

- a) A rabbit, poodles and horses
- b) Poodles

8. How did they travel to Toronto?

- a) By train
- b) By carriage

9. How long did the trip to Toronto take?

- a) One hour
- b) Seven hours

10. What did the girls learn to grow in their garden?

- a) Radishes, beans, corn and beets
- b) Flowers and onions

11. Who was Mr. Reid?

- a) Their music teacher
- b) Their gardener

12. What did Sophia learn about herself from Mr. Reid about planting?

- a) To have a lot of patience
- b) To weed and water the flowers

13. What were the names of their poodles?

- a) George and Georgette
- b) Finn and Finette

14. What was their garden contest about?

- a) Who will grow the tallest flower
- b) Who will grow the biggest melon

15. What did Minnie do at the end of the contest?

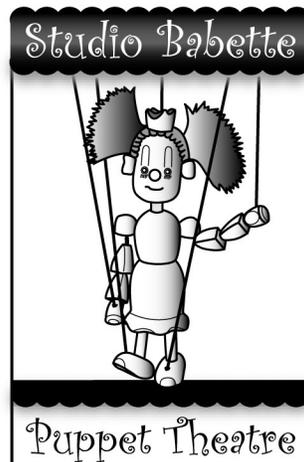
- a) She did not water the melon
- b) She switched the melons to win

Studio Babette Puppet Theatre was founded in 2007 in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada by Marie Franek, Helena Adamczyk and Kerry Corrigan.

Studio Babette now has six shows which are available for touring and bookings,

- **Little Fairy Tales for Little People**, ages 2 - 8, *classic fairy tales on small sets*
 - **Carlos and His Five Reasons**, ages 3 - 12, *based on a Spanish folk-tale*
 - **Pulcinella: il Cameriere**, ages 13+ , *Commedia del'Arte, comedy Italian style*
 - **From Ruthven to Passchendaele**, ages 7 – 15, *the true story of the Thompson family in WWI*
 - **Young Sophia: the Dundurn Castle Diary**, ages 6+, *inspired by the diary of Sophia MacNab*
 - **Where Are You Cinderella?**, ages 3 - 12, *the classic tale with a twist*
- All shows are enjoyed by adults too!*

Please visit our website www.studiobabette.ca for more information and news on upcoming bookings.



Learning activities

Grade 1:

ARTS

Curriculum Strand: Drama

Specific Expectations: Reflecting, Responding, and Analysing

- ☉ express feelings and ideas about a drama experience or performance in a variety of ways, making personal connections to the characters and themes in the story
- ☉ What was funny in the puppet play? What was sad? What was happy? How did their school compare to yours? What did they do for fun? How did they travel?
- ☉ identify and describe drama and theatre forms, events, and activities that they experience in their home, school, and community

Have you ever seen a puppet play before? What is interesting about a puppet play? Can you do this yourself at home? What did the actors use besides puppets? (*set, lights, music, props, shadows*) Can you think of other kinds of puppets you have seen? Where have you seen them? What did you like about the puppets and the set?

SOCIAL STUDIES

Curriculum Strand: Heritage and Citizenship

Curriculum Topic: Relationships, Rules, and Responsibilities

Specific Expectations: Knowledge and Understanding

- ☉ state in simple terms what “relationships”, “rules”, and “responsibilities” are;
- ☉ explain why rules and responsibilities have been established
- ☉ identify important relationships in their lives and name some responsibilities that are part of these relationships;
- ☉ describe significant people and places in their lives and the rules associated with them;
- ☉ identify significant events in their lives and the rules associated with them;
- ☉ describe how they follow the rules about respecting the rights and property of other people and about using the shared environment responsibly

What rules and responsibilities did Sophia and Minnie have? What chores did they perform? What kind of punishment did they receive? Name the various members of the family, and the extended household. What was Kitty's role in the lives of the girls? What other servants were in the house? Why was the kitchen garden so important in their lives? Why did Minnie switch the watermelons? Why did Sophia let Minnie win the contest? Why did Kitty tell Minnie that her father would be proud of her? What animals did Minnie and Sophia have access to? (*Jim and George the horses, Finn & Finette the poodles, Neptune the rabbit*)

see also attached sheet of songs from the play and instructions for constructing wooden spoon puppets.



Subjects: Language arts (understanding form and style, reading for meaning and fluency); Social Studies/History (British North America, conflict and change); Drama (role, character, relationship, time and place)

Description: As students study either the play **Young Sophia: the Dundurn Castle Diary** or the Diary of Sophia MacNab, they will learn new vocabulary and the meaning of historical words

Goals: To enhance the students' vocabulary and language proficiency

Objective: Students will learn the spelling of vocabulary from the The Diary Of Sophia MacNab through variety of spelling activities

Procedure:

1. Write the following list of words on separate sheets of paper and create a word wall
2. Ask students to copy the words in alphabetical order using cursive
3. Let them find rhyming words
4. Let them write sentences with the words.
5. Ask them to write plurals of the nouns.

Level one spelling list:	Level two spelling list:
keep	coax
row	gooseberry
seed	disappointment
bean	government
beet	mischief
shed	investigate
train	precious
weed	castle
poodle	naughty
puppy	fragrant
seed	hatch
sneak	wicked
wealthy	radishes
cherry	patience
servant	government

Assessment:

- ☉ Students will write a dramatic dialogue from the diary using the words in it.
- ☉ Student can practice the new learned vocabulary in activities or spelling dictations.

Follow up:

Social Studies - Learning the historical terms through the attached word search puzzle

Drama - Character analysis and dramatization of scenes from the play or diary

Write a short paragraph:

Why didn't Sophia confront Minnie when she discovered what Minnie did in the garden?

What did the garden teach both girls? Describe the role of the garden.

Topic: How to grow a small garden

Grade Levels: 3-5

Subject: Math, literature, science, social studies, language

Duration: 45 minutes

Description: students will learn the history of historical heirloom plants, apply math when planting and projecting yields, expand in life sciences when planting and composting, engage in literature when growing plants mentioned in books, explore social studies when understanding food supply and delivery, engage art when making items from harvested pumpkins or making decorative garden art.

Goals: Students will gain an appreciation of all of the aspects of planning, preparing, growing, maintaining and harvesting the garden

Objectives: Students will be able to engage in growing their own garden

Materials: spade, seeds, watering cans, rakes, trowels, hose, watering cans, gloves, hoe, resource material

Procedure:

1. Students will be given an assignment to design a garden plot and pick the most ideal location.

Ask: Why is location of a garden important? What factors do you have to look at? Do we have to plant in containers, raised beds or is there a natural area suitable?

Say: You are looking at where the sun shines the most hours.

2. Students are asked to study the composition of the soil.

Ask: What kind of soil are you dealing with?

Say: You can determine the composition of a soil sample by performing a texture test and then using data to classify the soil as sand, clay, or silt. You can feel the texture of the soil when it is damp by scooping up some soil in your hand and mashing it between your fingers, you can get a pretty good idea of what your soil is made up of. Sandy soils should feel gritty, silt feels silky and almost soapy while clay feels sticky. By squeezing the soil with your hand, you can tell if has a high concentration of clay because it forms into a tight shape or crumbles if it is sand.

3. Students are asked to how they can improve their soil.

Say: Composting leaves, raw food scraps, coffee & tea grounds, peat etc can enhance the soil.

4. Students are asked to decide and plan what seeds they would like to grow and why.

Say: Each seed has a different growing time and can tolerate different amounts of sunlight. Students can learn to read the back of seed packages.

6. *Say:* Lettuce and peas like cooler weather and lettuce can get more than one yield in a growing season.

7. *Say:* Radishes & beets grow fast. Melons, such as pumpkins, need a lot of space.

8. *Ask:* What herbs are useful to grow?

Say: Dill grows fast and is a bug repellent. Parsley and basil are used a lot in cooking. Chives are nice on baked potatoes. Mint for herbal tea. Lavender smells nice. Herbal gardens can be planted in geometrical designs.

Assessment:

Students will choose an area to plant a school garden by determining an area that has good drainage, close to a water supply or rain barrel, examining and improving the soil texture by the hand test and by adding necessary components to enrich its composition, studying and choosing what seeds to plant. Student will make a garden design and plant the seeds in their prepared soil.

Also they will learn how to maintain the growth of their garden and learn when and how to harvest its yield.

Ask: How much time is needed daily for weeding, watering, pruning and reaping the bounty. How can we store our seeds for the following year?

Follow up**Art**

Garden and its use – create either a model, a sketch or a layout of the Dundurn Castle garden

<http://www.theteachersguide.com/plantsflowers.htm>

Social Studies

Food and its preparation – prepare some great Victorian recipes like soups, breads etc.

http://www.livingvictorian.com/pm/journal_dundurncastle.html

Science

Learn how to harvest & store seeds on a field trip to William Dam Seeds in Flamborough

William Dam Seeds

279 Hwy # 8, West Flamborough, Ontario

905-628-6641

www.damseeds.ca

Read more: <http://life.nationalpost.com/2011/02/02/field-trip-william-dam-seeds/#ixzz1CpQjc03>

Community Gardens

Learn more about local community gardens and how to start them.

You Grow Girl -

<http://www.yougrowgirl.com>

Other areas of interest for student research:

History of 4 H Club in our area:

<http://www.hamwent4-h.ca/clubs.html>

Crop rotation & why

Soil preparation- How to compost winter & summer

Hot beds & how they work scientifically

How to plant seeds

Follow up for subjects of social studies and art:

🕒 garden and its use – create a model of Dundurn castle's garden

🕒 <http://www.theteachersguide.com/plantsflowers.htm>

🕒 Food and its preparation – prepare some great Victorian recipes like soups, breads etc.

http://www.livingvictorian.com/pm/journal_dundurncastle.html

<http://thefoody.com/hsoup/index.html>

Topic: How to make a rod puppet

Grade Levels: 3-5

Subject: Mathematics (geometry and spatial sense, patterning), Drama (role, character, relationship, time and place); Art (elements and principles of design) Social studies (Canada and world connections, heritage and citizenship)

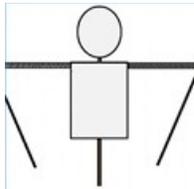
Objective: Children will be able to construct a rod puppet and role-play a scene from the play

Material:

- 1 Styrofoam brand ball
- 1 Styrofoam brand block
- 1 12 inch section of ½ inch cotton rope or tube
- 1 12 inch piece for ½ inch wood dowel
- Barge cement or tacky glue
- Googly eyes
- Black electrical tape

Procedure:

1. Begin with the body block. Work a hole that goes through from one side to the other side, and goes from top to bottom. Thread rope through and spot glue when each arm length is equal.



2. Stain and seal the dowel. Let dry completely before continuing. Wrap electrical tape around the end for a grip.

3. Make a small hole in the bottom angle of the egg, with point down for chin. Insert the dowel into head and spot glue the neck into block area and the neck into head area.

Insert the finished dowel into block and make sure only a small part for the neck sticks up and the rest is the handle.

4. Cut two hands out and make a hole in the hand. Insert the rope into hand and spot glue in place. Make small holes in the side of the hands and insert the narrow rod into the spot at an angle.



5. Before inserting the rods you can cover the styrofoam with gesso and flesh tone paint for doll like detail. Or cover with glue and fur or felt.

You can add legs to this doll by making tube legs and sewing them to any body covering or costume. Rope and styrofoam feet can be added to the block body.

🕒 **Assessment and follow up depending on the subject**

🕒 role-play a scene from the old school with Mr. Thompson's strict attitude

🕒 create a dialogue between Sophia and Minnie of Sophia's confrontation about the switching of the melons

🕒 design a costume dress for the ball Sophia attended

🕒 make sock puppets of the dogs and act out scenes of their mischief in the castle and the garden

Songs from

Young Sophia: the Dundurn Castle Diary

Marie's Wedding

Step we gaily on we go,
Heel and heel,
And toe for toe,
Arm and arm,
And row and row,
All for Marie's wedding.

Sur le pont d'Avignon

Sur le pont d'Avignon
L'on y danse, l'on y danse,
Sur le pont d'Avignon
L'on y danse tous en rond.

On the bridge of Avignon

We all dance there, we all dance there

On the bridge of Avignon

We all dance there in a ring

My Puppy (*sung to the tune of My Bonnie*)

My Puppy lies over the ocean,
My Puppy lies over the sea.
My Puppy lies over the ocean,
Oh bring back my Puppy to me.

Bring back, bring back,

Oh bring back my Puppy to me, to me.

Bring back, bring back,

Oh bring back my Puppy to me.

Planting Rhyme

One for the Mouse, One for the Crow

One to Rot and One to Grow!

Bibliography

MacNab, Sophia. **The Diary of Sophia MacNab**. Hamilton: W.L. Griffin Limited, 1968

Bailey, T. Melville. **The Surprise, A Sophia MacNab Storybook**. Hamilton: W.L. Griffin Limited, 1969

Bailey, T. Melville. **The Lair of Dundurn**. Hamilton: W.L. Griffin Limited, 1968

Beer, Donald R. **Sir Allan Napier MacNab**, Dictionary of Hamilton Biography, 1940, 1984

Currel, David. **Puppet and Puppet Theatre**. Ramsbury, Marborough (GB): Crowood Press, 2004

Other ideas and Internet resources

Puppetry

video of how to make a small table top puppet theatre

http://www.ehow.com/video_4414377_materials-puppet-theater.html

history of the different style of puppets

<http://sunniebunniezz.com/puppetry/puphisto.htm>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puppetry>

<http://library.thinkquest.org/07aug/00659/history.html>

<http://www.puppetsinmelbourne.com.au/faq.php/2009/03/18/how-to-make-a-table-top-puppet>

Social Studies

Hamilton in 1846 - make a booklet of old Hamilton photographs from the internet

<http://hamiltonpostcards.com/>

train invention – make a poster of the history of the first Canadian trains

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/trains/kids/index-e.html>

Dance

video – Victorian dancing

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZm-UQC1kkI>

Art

sewing and embroidery - embroider your name initials or a letter of the alphabet

<http://craftydaisies.com/2007/08/14/embroidery-lesson-1/>

make a model of a pop-up card of Dundurn Castle

<http://www.dickblick.com/lessonplans/castles/>

make a miniature clay castle

<http://www.princetonol.com/groups/iad/lessons/middle/middle20.html>

make a collage from different dried herbs

<http://www.theteachersguide.com/plantsflowers.htm>

paint the flowers from Dundurn Castle

<http://www.crayola.com/lesson-plans/detail/japanese-rimpa-painting-lesson-plan/>