

The Funny Ventriloquist

By David, Jaron, Marizette, Rachel & Raya

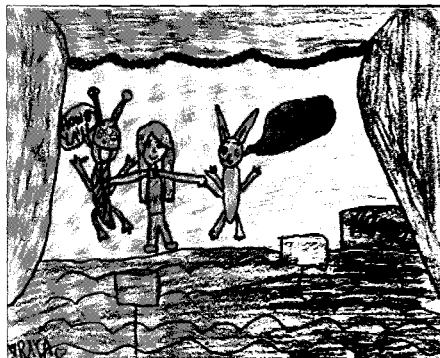
Val Hilliker loves ventriloquism and puppets. It's her spirit, "it's just doing something that I was meant to do," Hilliker explains. "It makes my heart sing!" She adds.

Originally, Hilliker wanted to be a nurse. But one day, when Hilliker was at the library, she spotted a book all about ventriloquism. "I thought I would give it a try," she explains. It turned out to be her

true calling and she has now been a ventriloquist for 31 years.

Hilliker practices with her **puppets** everyday and is always **writing** new material for her shows. She loves performing for **children**, and merges her puppetry with **teaching**. "Ventriloquism is speaking **without** moving your lips. It's **entertaining** with a puppet," Hilliker explains.

Hilliker has performed many shows outside of Calgary, and has visited places such as Japan and America to perform. Her shows usually last from half an hour to two hours. To find out more about the artistry of ventriloquism, you can visit Hilliker's website at www.valhilliker.com



Did You Know?

- There are about one hundred full-time ventriloquists in the world today. Only five of them are females.
- Ventriloquists are popular acts on America's Got Talent and Sweden's Got Talent.
- Becoming a ventriloquist takes a lot of practice and there are many letters that are hard to say.
- B, F, M, P, Q, V, and W are very tricky to say without moving your lips.

Are You A True Ventriloquist?

1. You can speak without moving your lips.
2. You can say "tea" without moving your lips.
3. The letters B, F, M, P, Q, V, and W are easy to say.