

# Cornhusk Doll

The doll that Eliza left for Johanna was made from cornhusks, one of the few materials available to slave mothers like Leah Jackson. Slaves also made dolls from corn cobs, straw, twigs, nuts and dried apples, then dressed them in scraps of cloth. You can make your own cornhusk doll like Eliza's.



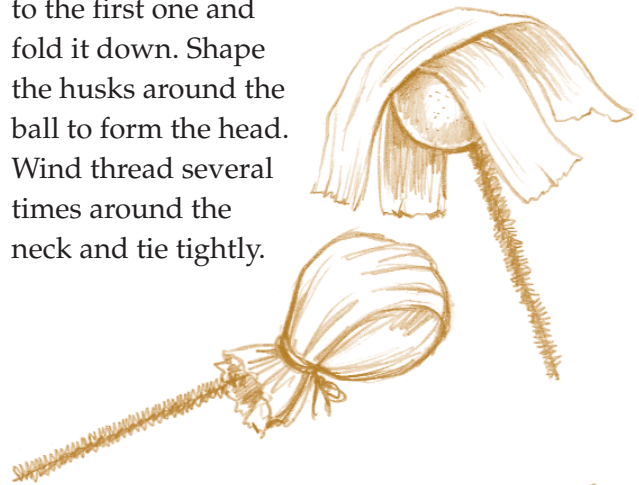
## You'll need:

- 10 to 15 cornhusks (from the cob or a craft store)
- scissors
- newspapers
- 1 L (4 c.) warm water
- 10 mL (2 tsp.) glycerine
- a towel
- 2 pipe cleaners, each 10 cm (4 in.) long
- 2 cm (3/4 in.) plastic foam ball (or crumpled paper wrapped in tape)
- strong thread
- felt markers
- fabric
- a sewing pin

1. For husks straight from the cob, trim off the bottom ends so that the husks lie flat. Dry them between layers of newspapers for about a week. For husks from a craft store, start at Step 2.

2. Soak the husks overnight in warm water mixed with glycerine. Blot them on a towel to soak up the excess water.

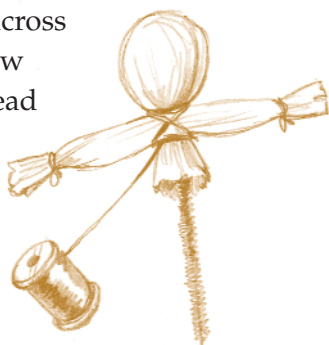
3. Push a pipe cleaner into the foam ball. Fold a piece of cornhusk 13 cm (5 in.) long over the ball. Place a second husk at a right angle to the first one and fold it down. Shape the husks around the ball to form the head. Wind thread several times around the neck and tie tightly.



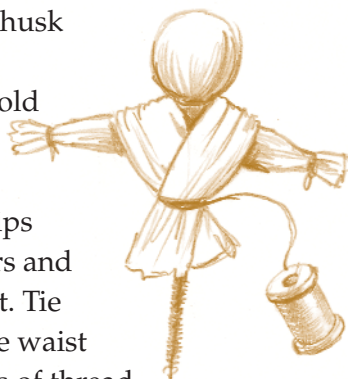
4. Cut a strip of husk 2.5 cm x 10 cm (1 in. x 4 in.). Lay the other pipe cleaner on it lengthwise and roll up as tightly as possible. Tie thread near each end to make the wrists.



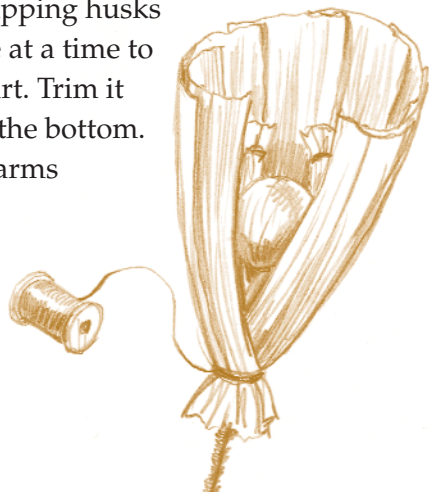
5. Lay the arm piece across the body piece below the head. Wind thread over and under the arms several times in a figure-eight pattern, then tie tightly.



6. Cut two strips of husk 4 cm x 13 cm (1½ in. x 5 in.). Fold lengthwise to make strips. Crisscross the strips over the shoulders and down to the waist. Tie tightly around the waist with several turns of thread.



7. Bend the arms up beside the head. Overlap five or six husks around the waist with the wide ends pointing up. Wrap ten turns of thread tightly around the waist and tie. Fold the overlapping husks down one at a time to form a skirt. Trim it evenly at the bottom. Bend the arms down.



8. Use markers to make a face.



9. Cut a square of fabric 7.5 cm x 7.5 cm (3 in. x 3 in.). Fold it into a triangle to make a head scarf. Cross the ends under the chin and tie them behind the neck. To make an apron, cut a piece 2.5 cm x 4 cm (1 in. x 1½ in.). Wrap it around the waist and use a pin to hold it in place at the back.

