



#FontanaTogether

Shadow Puppetry

Shadow puppetry is an ancient form of storytelling using cut out figures that are held behind a translucent screen but in front of a light source. Some believe that shadow puppetry was invented in China during the Wu Di Dynasty. Lady Li was a very good friend to Emperor Wu Di and when she passed away, he became very depressed. Someone who believes in spirits also known as an occultist created a wooden figure and casted its shadow to kind of trick the Emperors mind into seeing Lady Li.

Students will write their own short play, cut out their characters, make a shadow theatre, and present their play.



Objectives

- Practice creative writing
- Learn about shadow puppetry

Materials

- Cereal Box/ Cardboard
- Wax paper/ Parchment paper
- Tape
- Paper
- Straws or sticks

Instructions:

- 1) Write out your story, you may include character lines
- 2) Cut out the silhouette of your characters and props
- 3) Tape each character to a stick or straw



- 4) Tape both sides of the box shut

- 5) Measure 1-inch perimeter around the edges of the on the long sides
- 6) Cut out the two rectangles to create the front and back of the theatre



- 7) Choose which side you would like to be the front
- 8) You can paint the box at this time
- 9) With Parchment/Wax paper or white computer paper cover one opening from the inside
- 10) You are ready for your play



- 11) Set your theater up in front of a lamp or flashlight

