

Drop in library session:

Libraries

Design and make a Shakespeare shadow puppet

Objectives:

- To engage families in puppet making.
- To use the shadows to introduce a Shakespeare play, *Macbeth*.
- To advertise other library services.

Planning Stage:

- ◆ Decide on a date for your event.
- ◆ Decide which age group your event will be for.
- ◆ Decide how you will advertise your event. Will you e-mail your mailing list? Will you advertise using posters?
- ◆ Decide who will be running the workshop on the day.
- ◆ Prep your performance space.
- ◆ Finalise your plan.
- ◆ Purchase your materials.
- ◆ Make some example puppets.
- ◆ Prep your crib sheets & Instructions

Materials:

- Shadow screen
- Shadow puppet making instructions sheets
- Example puppets to show
- Black card
- Scissors
- Yellow pencils
- Rubbers
- Sharpeners
- Split pins
- Torches
- Rods
- Sticky backed Velcro



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Drop in library session:

Shadow Puppet Workshop (continued)

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Procedure:

Set up

Set up the space at least 30 minutes before your first workshop. We recommend having:

- A point for arrival. This is where you will greet guests and explain the context.
- A making space. A supervised space where the children will make their puppets. This will require the most space.
- A performing space.

Arrival

Have a crib sheet for your arrival. For example, this might explain that today we're making shadow puppets themed around the witches from *Macbeth*. The person greeting here should be confident in telling people how the element fits within your context.

Making Space

- Display the example puppet and discuss how it has been made and what it was designed for.
- Have written instructions as well as instructions verbally.
- Set out the materials in a logical order which can follow the instructions sheet.

Performing Space

Have a set-up performing space. This could be a large shadow set-up constructed from a single light source and a sheet hung up. Or a specialist projection screen.

It would be useful to have some text here from the play and encourage the children to be able to perform simple moments from the scene. The way you set this space up could include having some fixed pieces which add extra elements to the scene. Could you have a cauldron or some trees to frame the puppets made by children?



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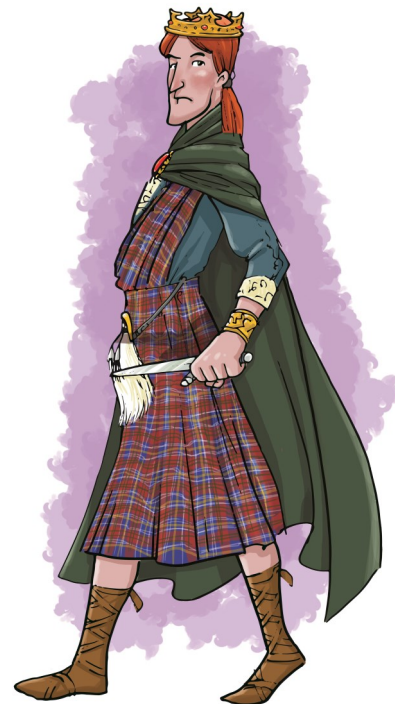
Drop in library session:

Shadow Puppet Workshop (continued)

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Tips for running the session

- ◆ Stick to your start and end times. Will you have a last make at 15 minutes before?
- ◆ Allow children to make as many puppets as they would like.
- ◆ Encourage adults to make with their children.
- ◆ Be confident at holding people at the welcome space if there are too many people already making. We recommend a maximum ratio of 1 library staff member to 11.5 adults + children.
- ◆ Keep your making space as tidy as possible by continually cleaning up.
- ◆ Use the time of interaction to advertise what else is going on in your space.
- ◆ Provide a crib sheet for externals with details you would encourage them to pass on.
- ◆ If you would like to take photos or videos, make sure you get permission from the parents.
- ◆ Have loads of fun!



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Making Space (1 hour)

- ◆ Display the example puppet and discuss how it has been made and what it was designed for.
- ◆ Working along with the group, each person should make a humanoid puppet with a moveable split item.
- ◆ Once everyone has made a single puppet encourage the group to think of what else they may want to tell the story, do they need a wall for example?
- ◆ With a high-ability group, you could use coloured plastic or oil to create coloured effects for the puppets.
- ◆ Once you've created the puppets, move on to effects and the stage design.
- ◆ Encourage people to try their puppets out.

Performing Space (20 minutes)

- ◆ Have a set-up performing space. This could be a large shadow set-up constructed from a single light source + a sheet hung up. Or a specialist projection screen.
- ◆ Let each group have some time in the space.
- ◆ Finish the session by letting each group perform as you read out the story you started the session with.

Tips for running the session

- ◆ Stick to your start and end times, give plenty of time for play in the last session.
- ◆ Allow children to make as many puppets as they would like. Encourage adults to talk with their children.
- ◆ We recommend a maximum ratio of 1 library staff member to 11 adults + children.
Keep your making space as tidy as possible by continually cleaning up. If you would like to take photos or videos, make sure you get permission from the parents.
- ◆ Have loads of fun!

Booked library session:

Shadow Puppet Workshop (continued)

Libraries

Key plot points for the Mechanicals play

In the court of The Great Duke Theseus, our heroes the Rude Mechanicals are about to show their play 'The Tragedy of Pyramus and Thisbe'. These craftsmen have been working on this play for weeks and it's about time for their debut.

In the audience are the lovers, Helena, Demetrius, Hermia and Lysander.

- ◆ Peter Quince, the show's director, stands up on stage and delivers his prologue. He implores the Duke not to be offended.
- ◆ Enter Bottom and Flute as Pyramus and Thisbe the lovers.
- ◆ At night these lovers would meet and whisper through a small hole in the wall (played by Snout) that separated their houses.
- ◆ The lovers agree to meet by moonlight at Ninu's tomb in a graveyard.
- ◆ Robin Enters the play to represent the moon.
- ◆ Thisbe arrives first at the tomb.
- ◆ She is scared away by a lion played by Snug the Joiner. She drops her Mantel.
- ◆ Pyramus arrives expecting to meet Thisbe.
- ◆ Upon finding Thisbe's Mantel, Pyramus presumes Thisbe is dead and draws his dagger to kill himself.
- ◆ Thisbe returns to find Pyramus dead in the graveyard.
- ◆ Thisbe too stabs herself.
- ◆ Bottom awakes and asks the duke if he wishes to see more.
- ◆ The Duke declines and the mechanicals take their exit.