

LESSON PLAN SHADOW PUPPETS

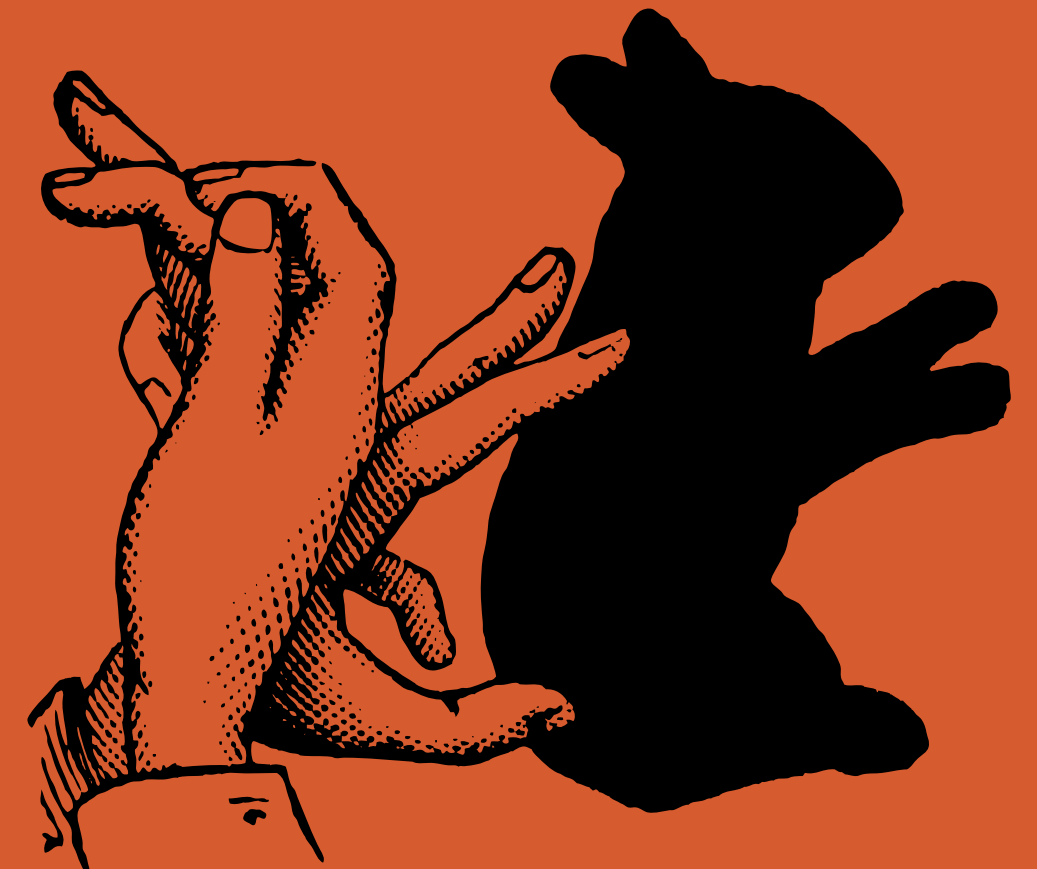
Prior to this lesson, we highly recommend that you view Dragoncillo's [video](#)



OBJECTIVES:

AFTER THIS LESSON, STUDENTS SHOULD...

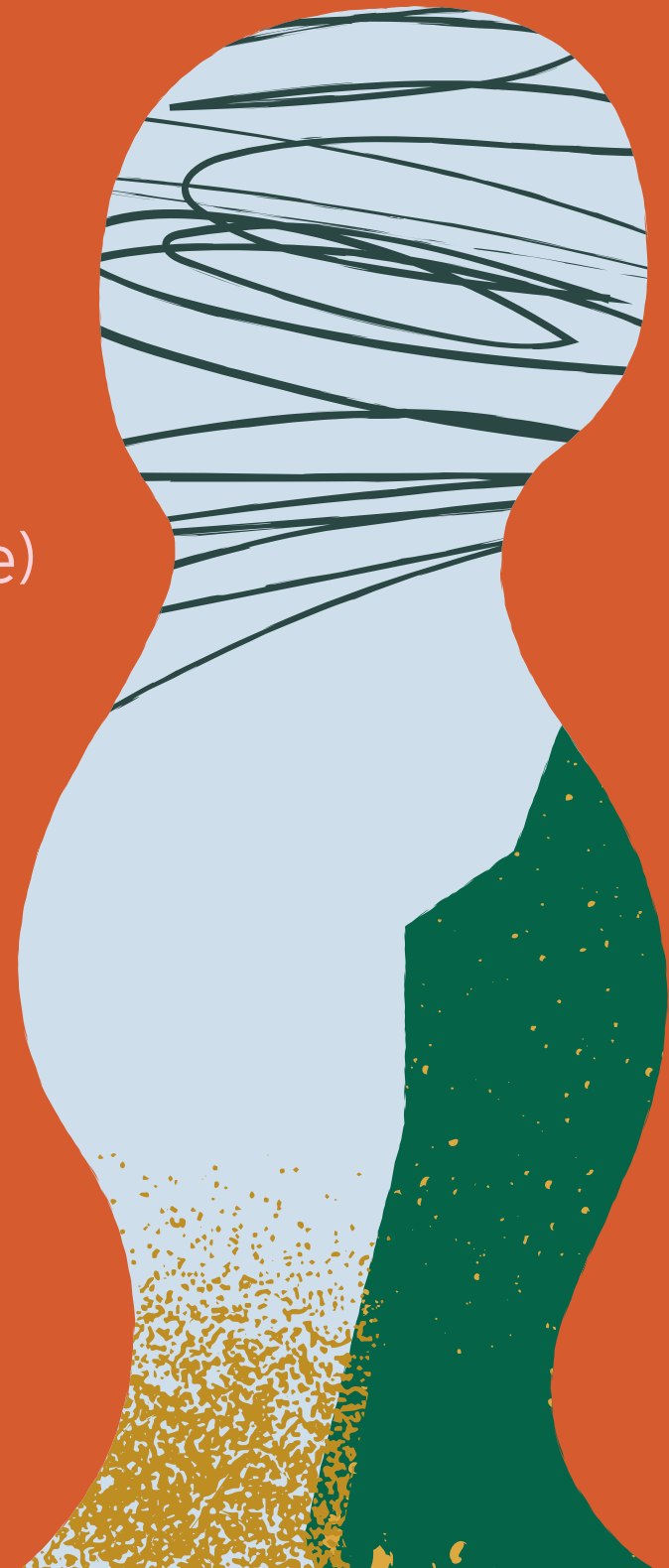
- 1....understand the difference between a conventional hand puppet and a shadow puppet
- 2.... construct and operate their own shadow puppet
- 3....learn basic rules for using shadow puppets



MATERIALS REQUIRED:

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NUMBER OF ITEMS
(PARTICULARLY 2-6) WILL DEPEND ON THE NUMBER
OF STUDENTS IN ATTENDANCE

1. A conventional hand puppet (something as simple as a sock or finger puppet is adequate)
2. A previously prepared shadow puppet (follow the directions below)
3. Paper (cardstock is recommended, but not necessary)
4. Pencils/Pens/markers for drawing on the paper
5. Scissors for cutting out the drawn image(s)
6. Glue/tape for attaching the image(s) onto the popsicle stick
7. Popsicle sticks for holding the image(s)
8. A light source that can cast shadows



LESSON OUTLINE

Time required: 5 minutes



Activities and descriptions:

Hand puppets and expression

- a. Briefly show the students the hand puppet and explain the following:
 - i. Puppets are not 'alive' until you activate them with your hand, voice, and energy.

Place the puppet on your hand and wiggle your fingers. Bob the head up and down a few times. If you're feeling especially adventurous, try saying a few phrases with the puppet.

- ii. The puppet will respond to your movements and can convey complex emotions.

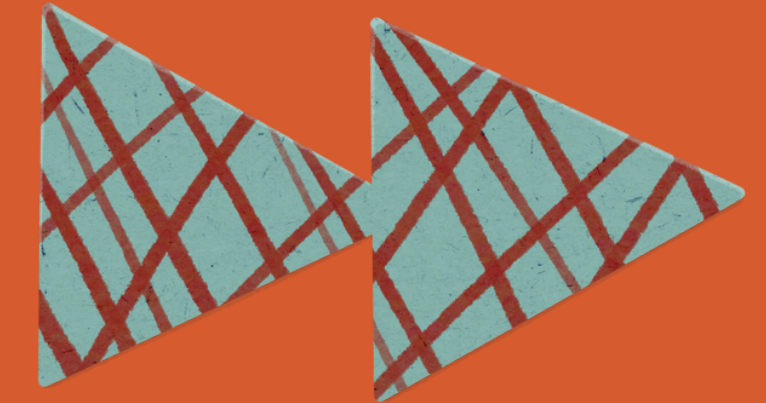
Express excitement with the puppet—stretch your fingers and extend the puppets' arms. Laugh with glee. You may also show sadness—crunch your fingers together as if the puppet were trying to hide its face. Make sobbing sounds.

Activities and descriptions:

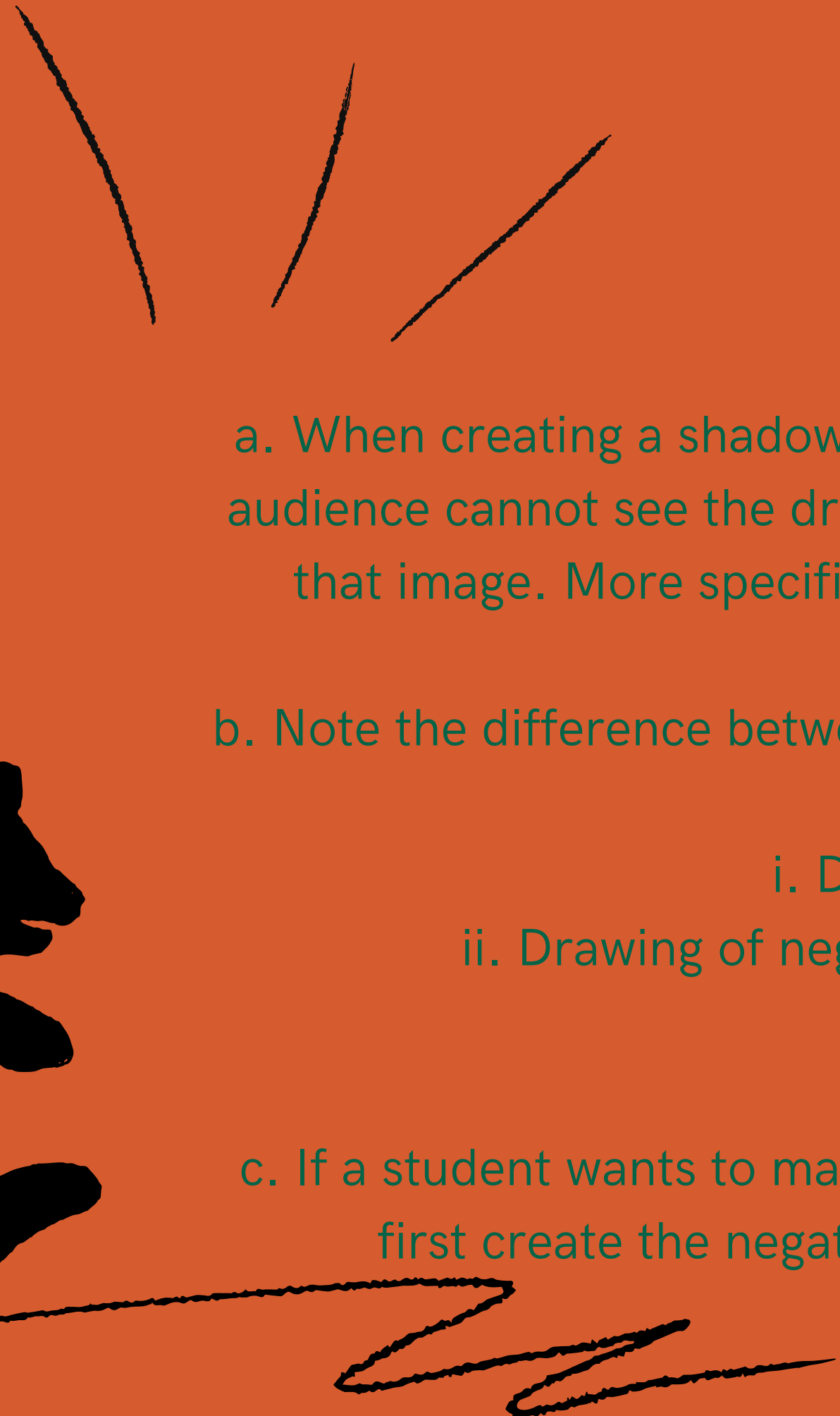
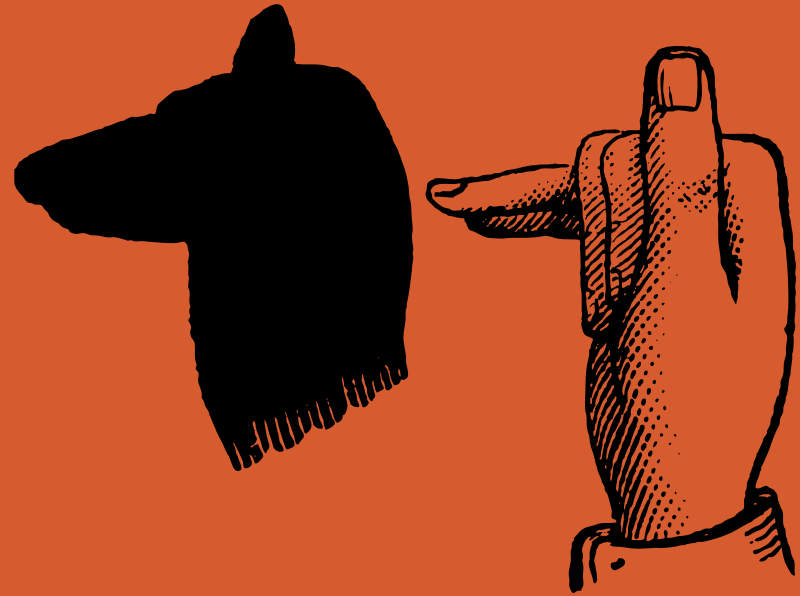
Time required: 5 minutes

Hand puppets are different than shadow puppets

- a. This exercise is designed to help students to understand that a hand puppet is designed to be seen as you maneuver it with your hand. A shadow puppet's shadow, however, is what should be seen when using this kind of puppet.
- b. Turn on your light source and hold up your prepared shadow puppet. Ask the students to focus on the shadow as it gets cast onto the wall. Ask the students what they notice. You may want to draw attention to the following:
 - i. The shadow grows larger or smaller depending on the distance you hold the puppet from the light source. Likewise, the details become less focused the further you hold the puppet from the light source. Ask the class to determine what a good distance is to hold the puppet so that they can clearly make out its shadow.
 - ii. Unlike the hand puppet, the students are looking at the shadow that is being cast from your prepared puppet. If the students are feeling especially inquisitive, point out that your prepared shadow puppet is a two-dimensional image whereas the hand puppet is a three dimensional image. As such, the shadow is also a two-dimensional rendition of the prepared puppet.
 - iii. When compared to the hand puppet, the shadow is a bit more limited in what it can express:
 - It casts a two-dimensional (instead of three-dimensional) image.
 - Its primary colors are black (shadow) and not black. Only in special circumstances (e.g., the gel films we use in Johnny Frog) can we create color with a shadow.
 - Movement and emotion are more difficult to express with a 2-D image (remind the students about the emotional complexity of the hand puppet as compared to the shadow puppet).
 - iv. The shadow needs a (1) light source and (2) backdrop to get cast. Without either of these, the shadow is invisible.



Time required: 5 minutes



Activities and descriptions:

A shadow is a negative image

- a. When creating a shadow puppet, it is important to remember that audience cannot see the drawn image, but rather the shadow cast by that image. More specifically, the shadow that is cast is a negative image of the drawing.
- b. Note the difference between these two images and their respective shadows:
 - i. Drawing of snake Black silhouette (fig. 1)
 - ii. Drawing of negative image of snake Shadow looks like drawing (fig. 2)
- c. If a student wants to make an effective shadow puppet, they must first create the negative image in order to make a shadow that corresponds with their original idea..

Time required: 15 minutes

Make your own shadow puppet!

1. Hand out the paper and pencils/pens/markers
2. Ask the students to draw a simple image that they would like to project as a shadow puppet (e.g., a flower, a hand, a shoe, a fish...).

Ask them to keep in mind that what they will see is the shadow, or negative of their image.

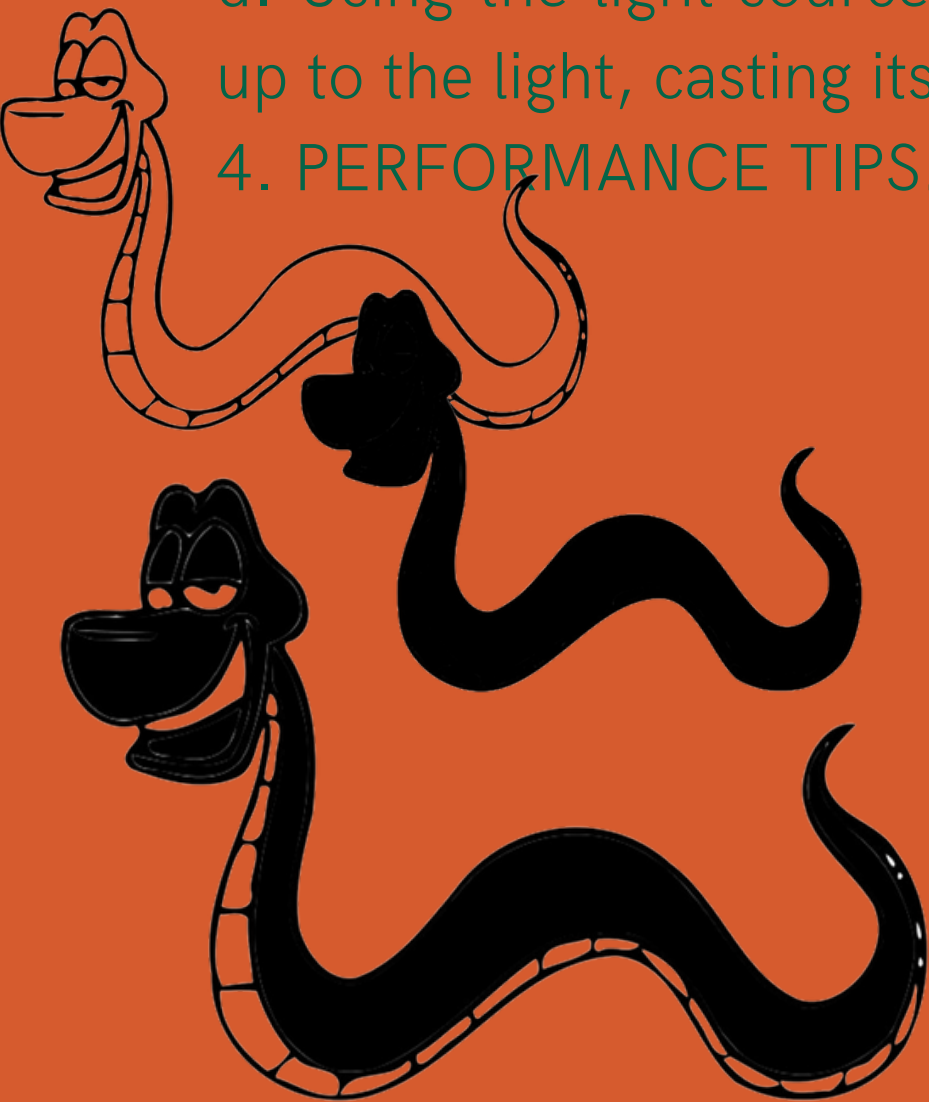
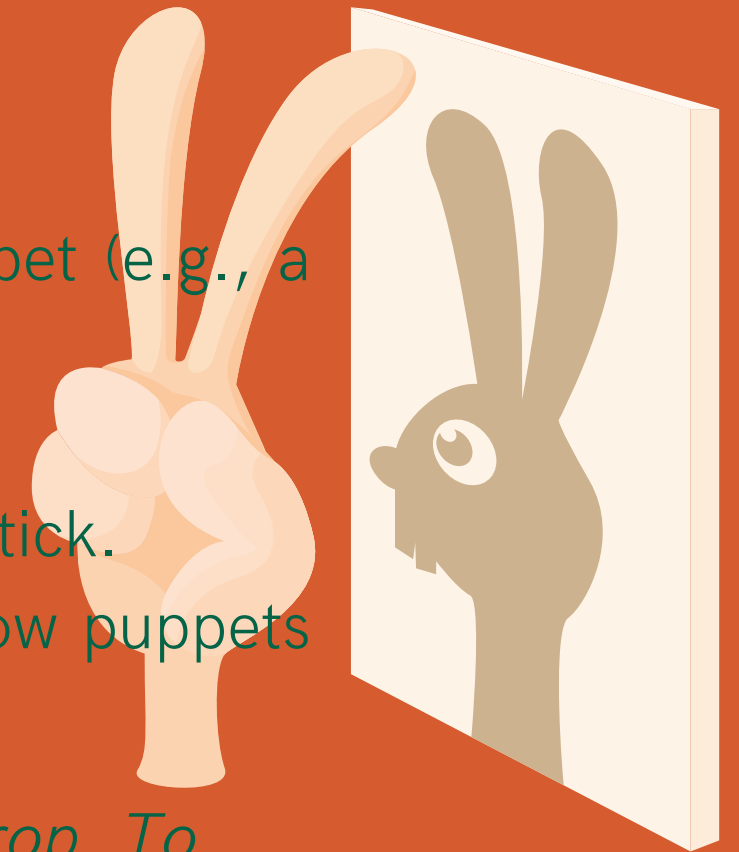
3. Instruct the students to carefully cut out their creations and to glue/tape them to a popsicle stick.

d. Using the light source from the earlier activity, students can hold their newly created shadow puppets up to the light, casting its shadow onto the backdrop.

4. PERFORMANCE TIPS!

- i. Don't turn your shadow puppet sideways to the light source/backdrop. To make the entire shadow visible, keep your puppet parallel to the screen!*
- ii. Don't overlap the puppets—remember, the audience only sees the shadows. If there are two puppets and their shadows overlap, the audience won't be able to see them!*
- iii. When using a shadow puppet, try to keep your hand stable and the actions slow—too much wiggling can make the shadow very wobbly and difficult to make out.*
- iv. Speaking: if you want your shadow puppet to speak, bob it up and down as you speak. If you want your shadow puppet to listen, hold it very still.*

Activities and descriptions:





CONCLUSION

5 MINUTES

a. A shadow puppet differs from a hand puppet in the following ways:

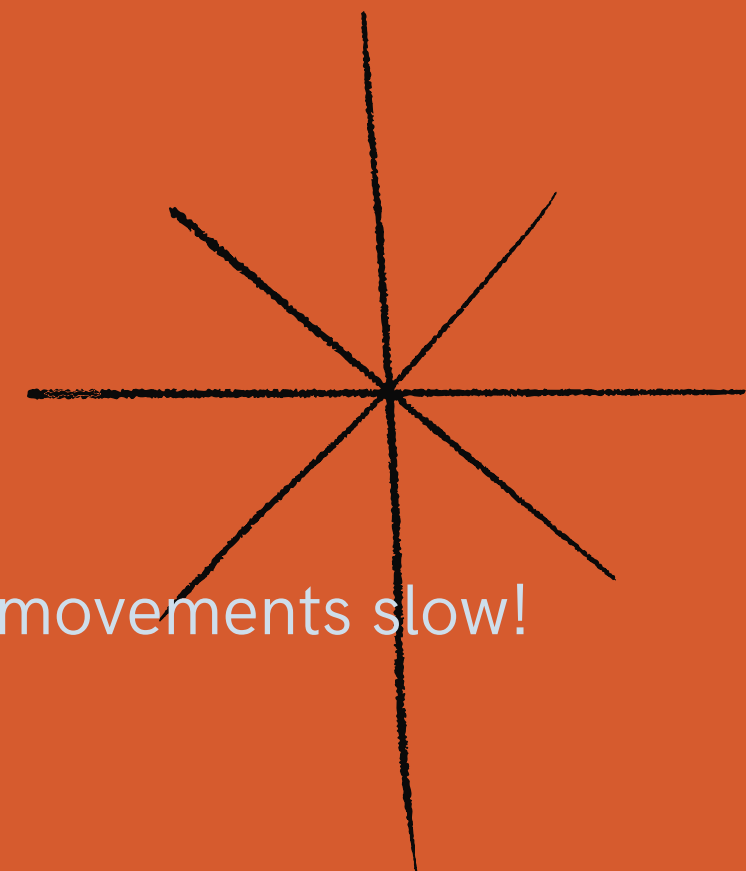


b. You can make your own simple shadow puppets by remembering to create a negative image.

c. Remember the following when using your shadow puppet:

- i. It's easier to express emotion with a hand puppet.
- ii. A hand puppet is a 3-D image, a shadow puppet produces a 2-D shadow.
- iii. A hand puppet is directly visible, a shadow puppet's shadow is what is seen by the audience.
- iv. A shadow puppet requires a light source to produce its shadow.

- i. Don't turn your puppet sideways!
- ii. Don't overlap your puppets!
- iii. Keep your hand steady and your movements slow!
- iv. Move to speak, stay still to listen!



CREDITS

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