

# **Study Guide**

## **SHADOWTALES by Rick Adam**

### **THE PROGRAM**

Discover the timeless magic of hand shadows. Using hands and simple cutouts this program illustrates familiar stories, tales and fables with shadow. Audiences will learn first hand how to cast shadows on a wall and create worlds where anything is possible.

### **FORMAT**

The performance is made up of a series of short shadow-tales using hand shadows, shadow puppets and easily made cutouts to illustrate familiar and some new tales. Original music and sound tracks add to the fun of the fantasy. Audience members get a chance to learn how the magic is made and how by using their own inventiveness and imagination they too can become shadow artists.

### **PERFORMANCE FOCUS**

- How shadows are made
- Improving hand eye coordination
- Creating you own shadow-tale
- Finding stores and tales
- Bringing stories and tales to life
- How to make a shadow theater

### **PRE-SHOW**

#### **CLASSROOM DISCUSSION:**

These are some questions you can ask your students before the show to help them understand what a shadow show might be like. Have on-hand either a flash light, a desk lamp or an over-head projector to experiment with. Projecting on either a lightly painter wall or poster board. Just draw the blinds and have fun!

1. Have you ever made shadows on a wall?
2. What can you use for a light source?
3. What besides a wall could you use to project the shadows onto?
4. What happens when you move your hand closer to the light source?
5. What happens when you move your hand away from the light source?
6. What are some stories or tales that you think would be fun with shadows?
7. What is some every day objects that you might find at home or in the classroom

that could make an interesting shadow puppet? Such as; kitchen spoon, a favorite toy, a shoe. Place them in a light and see what happens.

### **POST-SHOW**

#### **CLASSROOM DISCUSSION:**

Choose activities that are most age-appropriate for your students.

Again, have a light source on hand such as a flashlight, desk lamp or an over-head projector to experiment with.

1. Find a story, short tale or fable to make into a Shadow-tale. Either an Aesop Fable, Native American Story, or a favorite World Tale using lots of animals can be fun.
2. Warm-up your fingers and hands by wiggling them and making different shapes. What do the shapes remind you of?
3. Using a flash light or other light source have the students look at one class members shadow. What happens when you move the shadow around? Try shining it close to the student. Try moving it away. Try moving it above. Try moving it below.
4. Using the shadow chart try making the shadows. If the shadows don't look quite right at first try adjusting your hands and experimenting with the angle and distance from the screen. With a little practice they'll become clearer.
5. Using scrap pieces of card board make some simple props or cut outs for your show. Remember to have a handle so that you can hold the prop without being seen
6. Using some objects from the class room or home such as a shoe, book, hat or other interestingly shaped objects bring them to life by adding your hands to give them mouths or ears. Try creating some fun alien creatures with these objects. Then make up a simple story to use them in.

### **INTERNET SUPPORT SITES**

<http://www.internetfamilyfun.com/sitesforkids/handshadows.htm>

<http://hubpages.com/hub/Hand-Shadows-to-Entertain-Kids-and-Adults>

[http://www.shadowpuppets.com/Shadow\\_Puppetry\\_as\\_Entertainment\\_for\\_Children.html](http://www.shadowpuppets.com/Shadow_Puppetry_as_Entertainment_for_Children.html)

**BASIC HAND SHADOWS**



GOOSE



GOAT



HARE



OX



BUTTERFLY



WOLF



ELEPHANT



TEDDY BEAR



DOG



DONKEY