

Piccadilly Puppets Workshop

Shadow puppet-making workshop lesson plan

Set-up:

Each table has scissors, markers, brads, bendy straws and tape. A portable shadow screen with a light is set-up on a separate table or desk.

At least one classroom teacher or other adult should be available to assist. Number of adults needed depends on number and age of students. It is possible to have more than 25 students if extra adults and extra scissors are provided by the school or organization.

1. Teaching Artist demonstrates shadow puppets & reminds the students of the characters in the story of the Knee-High Man.
2. Students are given a sheet of card stock with the outline of two pieces of a shadow puppet. They may or may not get a choice of characters depending on the age group. (Preschool children will make an owl as it is the easiest to cut out).
3. Students will use markers to color the puppet. Demonstrate how a portion of the puppet will overlap.
4. Students will cut out the puppet. Adults will go around and punch holes during this step, and for younger children, add brads. Older students may be able to put the brads through the holes themselves, to attach the 2 pieces of the puppet together.
5. Demonstrate how to tape on the straws to use as rods. Make sure all students are watching. Then the students will tape straws on their own puppets. Younger students will need more supervision.
6. Students can try their puppets on the shadow screen, one or two at a time. This can be done while others are still working, or the Teaching Artist can wait and bring the whole group over. Optional: Give the students a few lines to say, or have them all sing a song while two puppets are on the screen. All students will get a turn manipulating their puppets on the screen.

NOTE: Students who finish Step 3 can move onto the next Step. It is not necessary for students to progress through steps at the same speed. If time is limited, students that finish more quickly can be taking their turn at the shadow screen, and then become audience members for the others.