



# RICHMOND HILL PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Summer Reading Club

### Shadow Puppets

Build your own puppet theatre then use the science of light & shadows to put on a show!

#### What you'll need

- Cereal or pizza box
- Scissors
- Tape
- Parchment, wax, or white copy paper
- Straws, craft sticks, or skewers
- A desk lamp or flashlight for a light source



#### Making a puppet theatre

Cut a large square in the middle of your cereal or pizza box – ask for help with this part! Use tape or glue to strengthen the sides if needed.

Cut a square of paper the same size as the box.

Tape or glue some paper over the opening – on the inside of the box.

Decorate the front of the box – your puppet theatre is ready!





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### Put on a puppet show

Choose your shadow puppets – draw your own shapes, cut out the templates included below or even use toys. Any of these will create shadows.

Tape a stick to the back of each puppet. For trees and bushes, you can tape them onto the back side of the theatre screen. Keep the tape on the cardboard so it doesn't show!

Place your shadow puppets on the back side of the theatre screen.

Shine a lamp or flashlight behind the theatre screen.

Gather your audience to view your puppet show!



### Make it a game!

*5 little monkeys  
swinging from the tree  
Teasing Mr. Alligator,  
Can't catch me...*

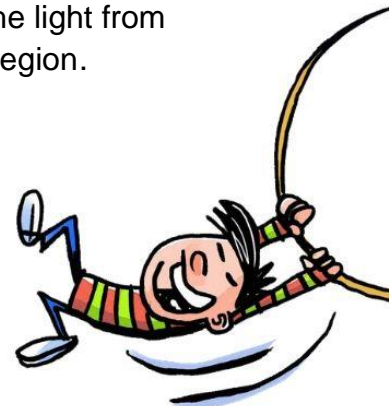
*Act out your favourite  
book or song.*

*Can your family  
guess what it is?*

### What's happening?

Light travels in a straight line but stops when something blocks it, creating a shadow. It may be short or tall depending on the angle of the light source: the sun, a flashlight, or campfire.

Did you know ...your shadow is longest in the early morning and in the late afternoon. When the sun is directly above you, there is little or no shadow because the light from the sun is falling upon you from all the sides and there is hardly any dark region. Your shadow leaves your side for a little while.





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