Bringing Picture Books to Life Through Shadow Puppetry
Wed. Feb 13, 2013

Main resource for this workshop came from

6 Screen

FRAMING CHOICES

1. Old picture frame: If a sturdy wooden picture frame with exterior measurements of at least 36" x 48" is residing in your basement or attic, fasten the screen material to the back with ¼" heavy-duty staples to create an adequate shadow screen. It will be necessary to attach a piece of 1"-x-2" lumber to the back of the picture frame so that it can be anchored to a tabletop with a 3" C-clamp. (See fig. 2.1.)

Fig. 2.1.

2. PVC pipe: Lengths of 1¼”- or 1½”-diameter PVC pipe can be connected with PVC right angles to form a rectangle. (See fig. 2.2.) The screen can be attached with self-stick Velcro patches instead of staples. Because round stock does not clamp securely to a flat table, add a piece of 1"-x-2" lumber to the base for secure operation.

3. Stretcher strips: Available at art and craft supply stores, these interlocking wood pieces provide the framing for an artist’s canvas. (See fig. 2.3.) They come in standard sizes of 8” to 60” in 2” increments and can also be special-ordered in longer lengths and thicker stock. After gluing the stretcher strip joints and fitting them together to form a frame, staple the screen material in place with ¼” staples. If more portability is required, assemble the joints without glue and attach the screen material with self-stick Velcro patches.

Stretcher strips are wide enough for the frame to be C-clamped to the table without any additional support. The audience will see the stapled side of the screen, but that’s of no concern once the lights go down and the show begins. However, if you prefer, hide the staples by adding a 1″-x-2″ clamping strip to the back of the frame after the screen material has been attached.
FREESTANDING SHADOW SCREEN

With the addition of side supports, the screen can be raised so that students can stand for the entire performance.

■ Supplies: saber saw or circular saw, two 96" pieces of 2"-x-2" lumber, four 36" pieces of 1"-x-4" lumber, electric drill and ¼" drill bit, four 4"-long ¼" machine bolts, four 5"-long ¼" machine bolts, eight ¼" wing nuts, eight ¼" flat washers, and eight ¼" lock washers

■ Directions: Center and square two 36" pieces of 1"-x-4" lumber on either side of each 96" piece of 2"-x-2" lumber. (See fig. 2.8, page 14.) Clamp and drill two holes through all three pieces of wood with ¼" drill bit. Fasten with 5"-long ¼" machine bolts, flat and lock washers, and wing nuts.

Clamp shadow screen to side supports with bottom of frame at average forehead height of your students. Drill two holes on each side through both pieces of wood with ¼" drill bit and fasten with 4"-long ¼" machine bolts, flat and lock washers, and wing nuts.

Stand shadow screen upright. Anchor bottom of each support with a couple of fabric-padded bricks or 5-pound exercise weights. Warn children to walk around supports rather than stepping over them. Screen open area below shadow screen by stapling fabric in place.
68 Simple Shadow Puppets (Ages Three to Seven)

Fig. 4.21.

**Materials**

Construction paper

Transparencies

File Folder

Sharpies/Permanent Markers

Tape

Chop Sticks/Bendy Straws

Brads/ paper fasteners

Hole Puncher

Popsicle Sticks

Exacto Knife

Parchment Paper

Picture Book