



# Teacher notes— shoebox shadow theatre

Welcome to the YPPT's shadow puppet pack! This pack is designed to develop your pupils' skills, both in terms of the exploration of light and shadow, and in terms of their cutting skills, as well as their creativity.

## Possible curriculum links

- D&T—fastenings, cutting skills, measuring
- Science—light and shadow
- English—oracy, storytelling, creative writing, retelling texts, developing language, instructional writing (explaining to someone else how to do it)
- Drama—voice acting, narration
- Music—writing music for a story, moving puppets to music
- History/Geography—tell stories from different countries or different time periods

## Suggested sessions

- Session 1—watch the video and create theatre. Depending on the age group, you can choose whether the pupils create a theatre each, or in pairs/a small group, or whether it's best for you to create the theatre for them. Once the theatres have been created, introduce the story that you'll be working on, and ask the children to make a list of characters that they'll need.
- Session 2—cut out templates, attach sticks. Children should choose appropriate characters for the story.
- Sessions 3-4 —explore the story. Depending on what you want to get out of it, this could include pupils writing a script, writing music, practising with their puppets etc.
- Session 5—performance—each pupil or group of pupils performs their story for the rest of the class (or for a small group)
- Session 6—writing recap of the project—perhaps reviewing another group's performance, or evaluating their own, writing a narrative account etc.



# Teacher notes— making the shadow theatre

It's up to you how many of these you'd like your class to make—we recommend perhaps 1 between 2, or 1 per small group, who can then work on a performance together.

## Making the theatre: materials

- String
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Shoe box (adult size. The best ones are ones with a fold-down lid rather than a lid that comes off all the way)
- Tracing paper or greaseproof paper—larger than the top of your box
- Torch
- Sellotape

## Instructions

1. Use a ruler and a pencil to draw a 25x16cm rectangle on the top of the box.
2. Use the scissors to cut out the rectangle. You might need to cut across from the edge of the box to do this—if you do, tape it back up afterwards.
3. Use a ruler and a pencil to draw a 28x20cm rectangle on the tracing/greaseproof paper. Cut it out using the scissors.
4. Use tape to stick the tracing paper to the inside of the box so that it covers the rectangle you cut out in step 2.
5. Use a pencil to poke two holes into the side of the box. Thread one end of your string through each hole. Tie a knot in each end and tape them to the inside of the box to make a handle.

# Teacher notes—making the shadow puppets (adv.)



These templates are designed to develop your pupils' skills a little further, both in terms of the exploration of light and shadow, and in terms of their cutting skills.

## Materials:

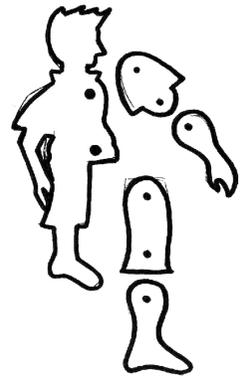
- Scissors
- Templates printed onto card (see next 4 pages)
- Split pins
- Sticks of some sort—we recommend wooden barbecue skewers as they're thin and cheap, but strong enough
- Sellotape or masking tape
- Optional: coloured tissue paper or acetate.
- Optional: hole punch (preferably a singular one) or Stanley knife

## Instructions

1. Cut out the figures and any accessories. For any enclosed shapes (e.g. between an arm and a body) we recommend using a singular hole punch to start the hole, which can then be cut bigger with scissors. However, poking scissors through or using a Stanley knife is also possible.
2. Use tape to attach the sticks to the back of each figure. Non-jointed figures require 1 stick. Jointed figures require 1 stick for the body plus 1 extra for each moving part.
3. Use in your shadow theatre!

## A few notes:

- For jointed templates, the parts are designed to be joined by split pins, inserted at the black dots on each part. It does not matter which part goes in front. In all cases, the figures are shown so that you should join the black dots that are nearest each other.
- Some of the templates have options for adding colour. Any pupils wanting to add colour should cut out the figures as usual, and also cut out any area shaded grey. They should then use sellotape to stick either coloured tissue paper or coloured acetate over the cut-out sections, so that the light can show through.
- You also have the option (as in the video) of printing the templates in paper, and tracing round them onto black card using a white pencil before cutting them out. This might be interesting for older pupils investigating how light travels through different colours.





# Teacher notes—using the shadow theatre

## Materials:

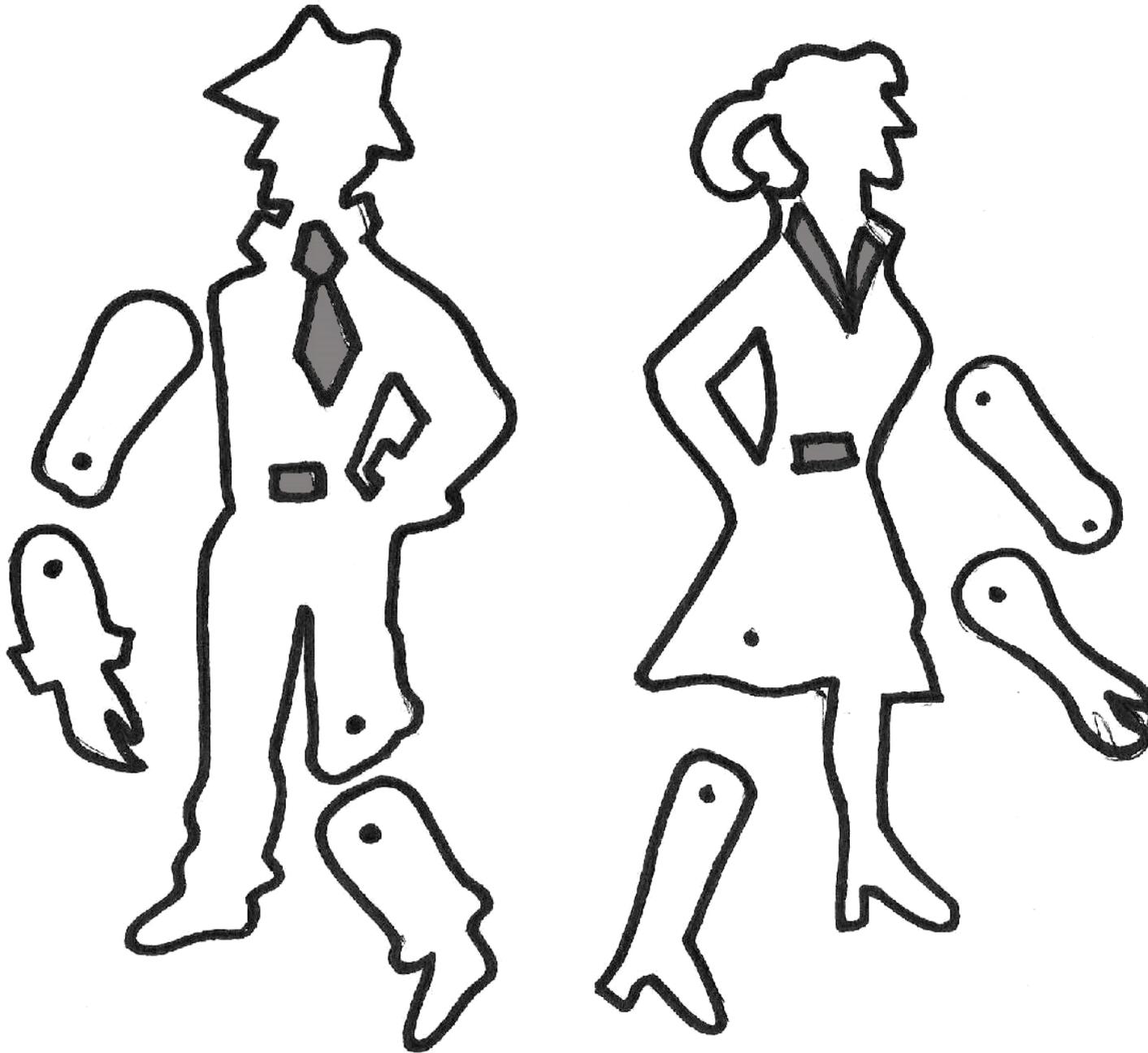
- Completed shoebox shadow theatre
- Completed puppets
- A light source—torch, desk lamp etc.
- Tape

## Instructions

1. Open the shoebox and set it up so that the top (with the tracing paper side) is facing your audience. If your box has a removable top, you might want to sellotape it to the table so that the top stands up by itself. If you do this, it needs to be near the edge of the table so that the puppets can come up behind it.
2. Set up your light source behind the theatre.
3. Turn out any remaining lights.
4. Enjoy!

*Tip: store puppets inside the box in between uses.*

## Adult shadow templates (jointed)

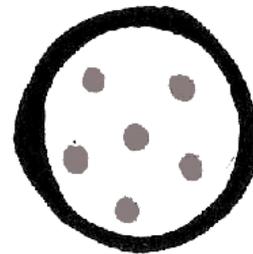
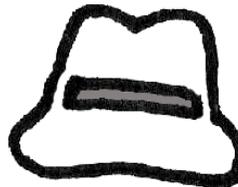
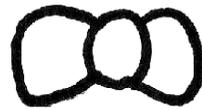
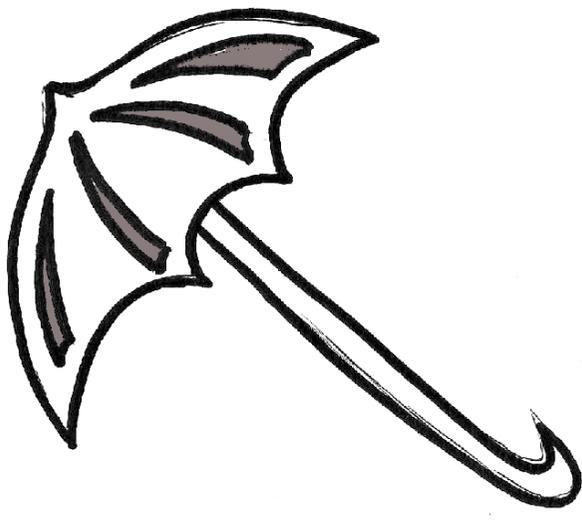
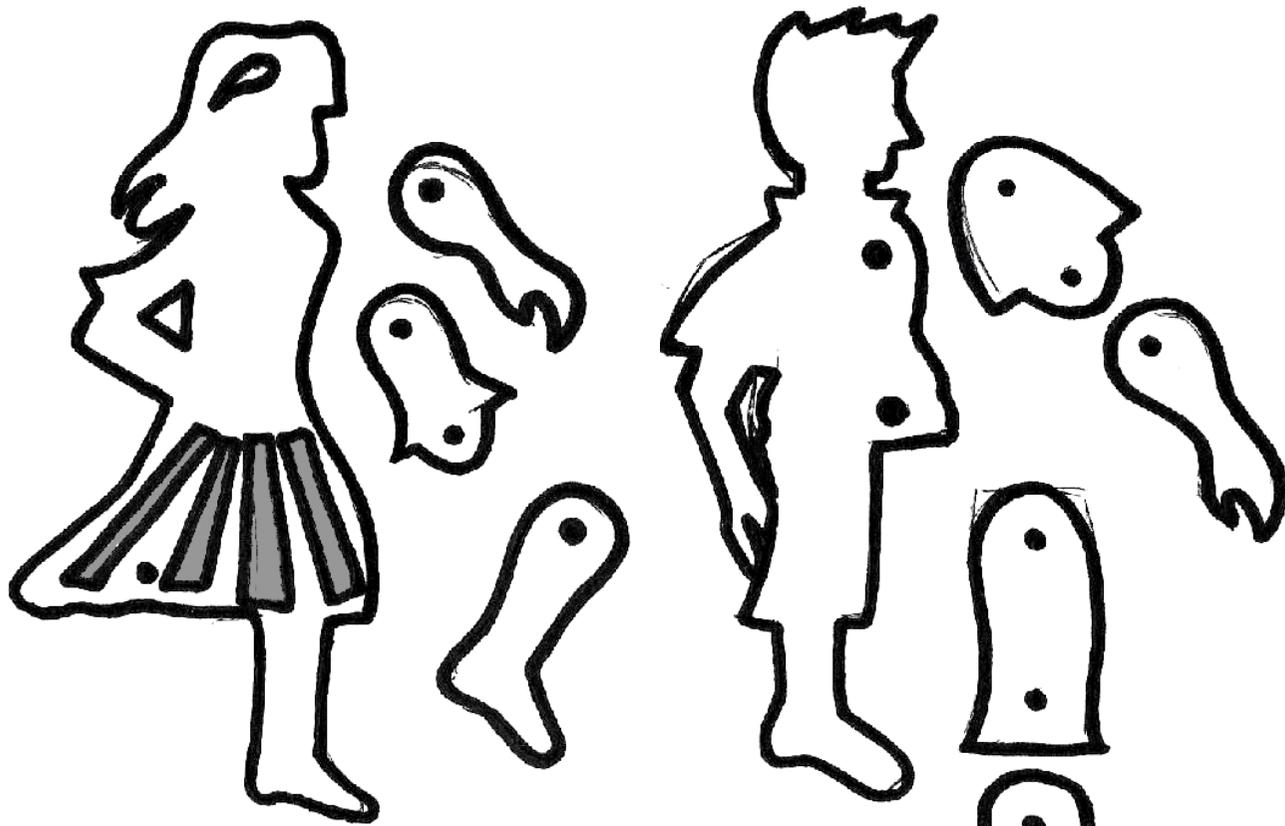


Cut out the template(s)  
you want to use..

Use split pins to join the  
arms and legs.

Use sellotape to attach a  
stick to the back of the  
body, plus one for each  
moving arm/leg.

# Child shadow templates (jointed)



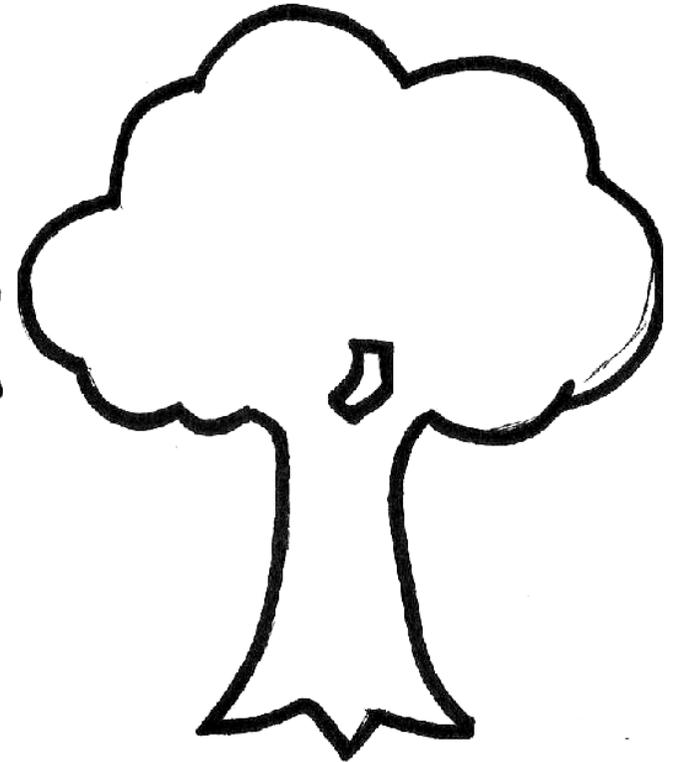
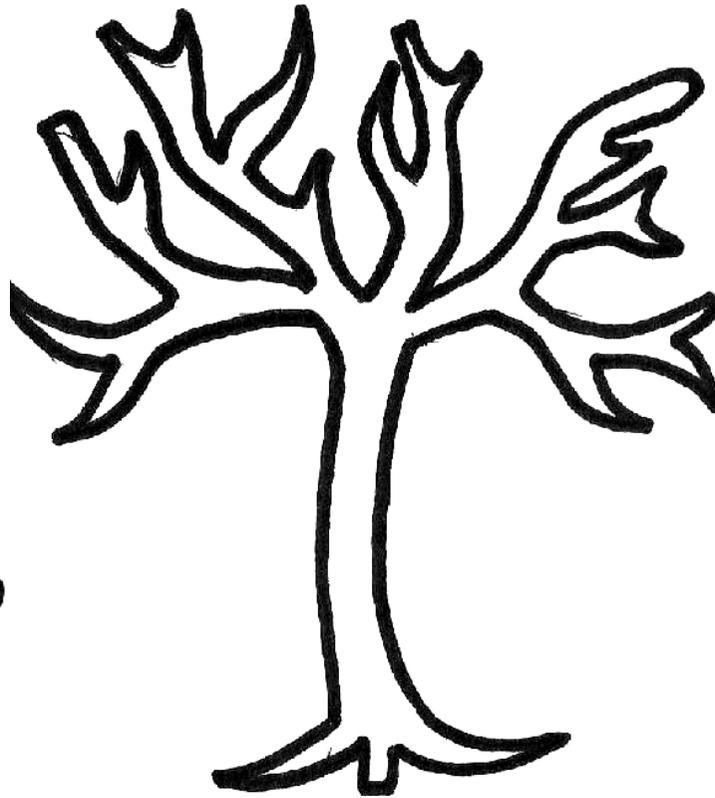
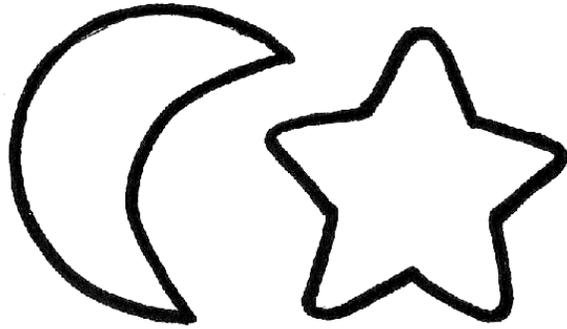
Cut out the template(s) you want to use.

Use split pins to join the arms and legs.

Use sellotape to attach a stick to the back of the body, plus one for each moving arm/leg.

You could also cut out any of the accessories and attach them to your character using tape or a glue stick, or give them a stick of their own to move independently.

# Landscaping templates



Animal  
templates

