Me and My Shadow

Art Form Focus: Puppetry and Visual Theatre
Key Message: Thinking out of the box … What would a world be like without friendship?

The Story

Shadows are mysterious and magical and can do amazing things. But making friends with your shadow can be a tricky business. There are things to sort out, negotiations to be made, frustrations to be overcome, problems to solve, adventures to be had and laughter to be shared.

Me and My Shadow is a gentle story depicting the fanciful escapades of a girl who finds a way to be friends with her shadow told using the languages of paper, light, shadow, colour, water, music, sound and words.

With fantastical imagery, quirky physical performances and an intriguing score, Me and My Shadow ignites the imagination and explores the frustrations and joys of friendship.

Winner Helpmann Award for Best Presentation for Children 2011

A PATCH THEATRE COMPANY PRODUCTION

Classroom Context

Children explore features of friendships and understand how they can build and strengthen friendships through individual and collaborative learning experiences.

Discuss features of friendship through binary opposites: friend/foe … alone/together … good/bad.

Learning Experiences

Interactive Teaching
Colour a friendship

A friendship is YELLOW – dazzling, like a sunflower watching the sun burning brightly in the sky. Yum, like sweet banana lollies or thick banana smoothies! Pretty, like a yellow feathered duckling so curious in her surroundings. Bright, like the yellow hats we wear to go outside – all the things my friend and I love!

- Ask children,
  If friendship was a colour, which colour would it be?
  Is the colour different from one friend to the next?
  Which emotions does the colour express for you?

- Children choose the colour their friendship resembles and describe the friendship through a drawing or writing task (as the example above).

Hear a friendship

Children interview a student from another class about a friendship they have formed (buddy groups or older students).

- Brainstorm and generate key questions for children to ask such as:
  Where did you meet your friend?
  Do you like/dislike the same things?
  Have you ever had an argument?
  What did you do to make things better?
Feel a Friendship

A friend is someone who makes you laugh over the silly things.

A friend is someone who will play sports with you or help you with your training.

A friend would make a beat and you’ll start dancing out of nowhere.

Shadow play is an ancient form of storytelling and entertainment and is popular in many countries.

- In pairs, children work with an older student/buddy group to create a friendship statement and present to the class.
- Refer to online resources for shadow play examples.

Extend Big Ideas

International Friendship Day July 30

- Host a Friendship Event to celebrate and send a message from your school to a neighbouring school about the importance of Friendship.
- Look at how other cultures celebrate Friendship Day.

Read more about friendships and shadows.

Blabley, A 2011, Pearle barley and charlie parsley, Sydney, Penguin

Hodgkinson, L 2000, Colin & the wrong shadow, Sydney, Orchard Books

Online Resource


VENUE Playhouse Lounge
AGES 3–8 years
DAYS AND TIMES
Wednesday 13 to Sunday 17 June
9.45am | 12.15pm