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Shadow Puppetry

At the beginning of the story, the boy is on the porch with the two most important things in his life — his father, and Sounder, the coon dog. Although it is night, the dim light coming from the cabin creates shadows on the porch. In this activity, you will make a shadow puppet of Sounder to see what his shadow would look like on the porch.

Here are the materials you will need.

- a pencil
- a pair of scissors
- string or yarn
- a roll of tape
- a piece of tagboard
- three drinking straws
- white cloth or white paper (to be used as a screen)
- a lamp, with its shade removed

Here are the directions.

Step 1: Draw a fairly large picture of Sounder on the tagboard. Remember that Sounder is described as “a mixture of Georgia redbone hound and bulldog.” He has a broad chest, strong neck muscles, and a square-shaped head and jaw.

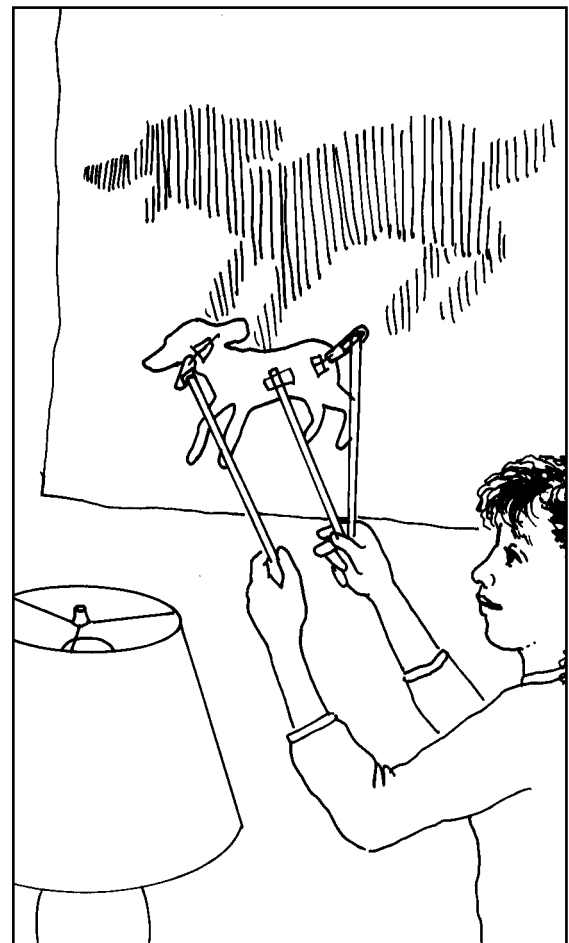
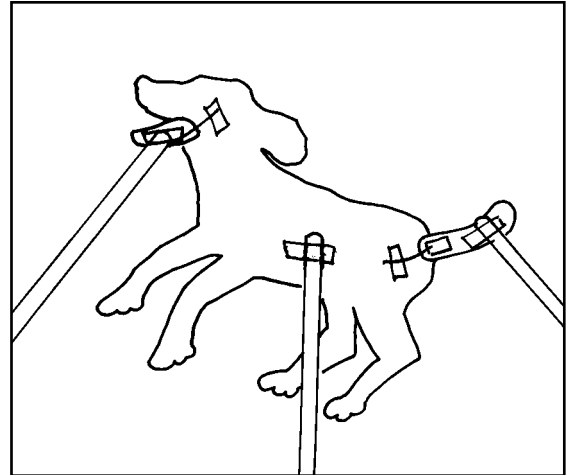
Step 2: Cut out the picture you have drawn on the tagboard. Then cut off two parts that you want to be able to move on your puppet. You can choose to move the front and back legs or the tail and lower jaw.

Step 3: Connect the body to one of the parts you need to attach, such as the tail. Do this by taping one end of a small piece of string to the tail and the other end to the body where the tail belongs. Then do the same for the other part you need to attach.

Step 4: Tape the end of one straw to the middle of Sounder's body. Then tape the end of a straw to each of the moving parts. Now practice making your puppet move.

Step 5: Hang up the white cloth or white paper for the screen. Place the lamp near the screen.

Step 6: Turn on the lamp and turn off the other lights in the room. Place your puppet between the lamp and the screen. It should cast a shadow on the screen. Now make the shadow of your puppet move.



Character Traits

When reading *Sounder*, our mental image of the characters is incredibly vivid, even though the author has created all but the dog without giving them names. Work with three or four other students to brainstorm a list of words and phrases that describe each of the following characters: the mother, the father, the boy, Sounder, the guard at the jail, the old white-haired teacher. Write the descriptive words in the appropriate oval shown below.

**The
Mother**

**The
Father**

The Boy

Sounder

**The
Guard at
the Jail**

**The Old
White-Haired
Teacher**