

Your Shadow Theater Roles

The success of the play depends on your hard work as individuals and as a team. As a team, you must share a common goal. In this case, your goal is the production of a shadow puppet play. By now, your team should have decided on a topic. Everyone should speak about what they would like the play to look like or be, and should decide on an overall concept and strategy to follow. Everyone in the group must agree upon final decisions.

Follow your teachers' instructions closely. Your teacher may wish to assign roles, your team may be asked to draw roles from a jar, or your team might be invited to vote based on why each member feels he/she would be best suited for a certain role. Once your team's roles are assigned, make sure you know what's expected. It's important to know your roles and take them seriously.

Director: Your job is to oversee the production and make sure that the play is running smoothly. Call meetings regularly to check and review progress. You will help the Script Writer, Prop Maker, and Set Maker make decisions and help overcome any challenges that may arise. You will also work with the Script Writer to finalize the script.

Script Writer: After your group has decided on the basic plot of the play, your job is to work out the details and write out all of the parts for each of the puppets in the play (and the narrator, if applicable). Be sure to include directions for any scene changes that occur. Make sure you communicate with the Prop and Set Makers so they are aware of the puppets they need to create. And work with the Director to come to decisions and finalize the script.

Prop Maker: Your role involves making the props for the play. From the basic plot of the play, can you determine whether a character might need a particular item for a certain scene (i.e., food, a baseball, a magic wand)? If not, work closely with the script writer. Read the script and figure out, with the Director's help, what props are necessary to tell the story.

Set Maker: You are tasked with making the sets for the play. If a scene is taking place in a garden, you might make a tree or a fountain. If puppets are at the beach, you might make water out of blue tissue paper. You don't need to create elaborate sets, just one or two items that would signify the setting. Work with the Director to determine what is necessary.

Creating a shadow puppet play is not an easy task. Here are some helpful hints:

- Make a checklist of all the tasks to be completed in your category. Stay on top of things by checking each task off as it is completed.
- Create a timeline for yourself.
- Make sure you have a very clear understanding of your tasks. If you have any questions, ask the Director for clarification.
- You should be able to give a status report at any time. Know what you have already accomplished; know what you are doing and what still needs to be done.