



# TEACHER NOTES

## Shadow and the Girl





Author:  
Jeanette Stampone  
Illustrator:  
Demelsa Haughton  
ISBN:  
9780 648 74 221

A giant girl towers over Shadow. Driven by fear, Shadow runs. Confused, the girl does the same. But can they really escape from each other?

With exquisite illustrations, *Shadow and the Girl* is an imaginative tale full of movement. Young readers will be enthralled by the fast-paced story that leads to a heartwarming ending. With themes of bravery and self-acceptance, this book will encourage children to embrace their own shadows and gain self-confidence.

### About the author: Jeanette Stampone

Jeanette Stampone is a debut Australian author who was born and raised in a spooky three hundred-year-old English house. She spent much of her childhood camping in the garden, and grew up with tales of local legends, pixies, ghosts and fairies. Her mother also read wonderful books every night, inspiring Jeanette's love of stories from an early age. Jeanette lives in a small country town in Western Australia with her husband and two boys.

### Jeanette's inspiration

Jeanette is constantly inspired by her children. When they were much smaller, Jeanette became more aware of common childhood fears, like monsters under the bed. But it was when her son talked about scary shadows and reflections that Jeanette was drawn to the idea of a story about a shadow. After all, lots of children are scared of their own shadows. And one day, somewhere along the journey, she wondered what would happen if a shadow was scared of its own child ...

### About the illustrator: Demelsa Haughton

Demelsa is a painter of whimsical and magical imagery. Her work creates a sense of wonder and gives a snapshot of imaginary worlds and characters, often with an injection of quirky, subtle humour. With a background in traditional media, she now paints all of her art digitally using a drawing tablet. She lives in North Yorkshire (UK) with her partner and their three children.

## EDUCATIONAL TOPICS

This book will encourage conversation about self-confidence, fear, friendships and new experiences and emotions. It will also provide an excellent basis for creative movement activities.

## DISCUSSION TOPICS

### *Before reading the book*

- Look at the cover. What do you think this book might be about? Who might the main characters be? What are they doing?
- Read the back cover blurb. Do you think Shadow and the girl will escape from each other? What might happen instead?
- What kind of story do you think this will be? For example, funny? Serious? Mysterious?

### *After reading the book*

- What kinds of emotions did Shadow and the girl experience? Why did they change?
- List words to describe the main characters.
- Do you think that Shadow and the girl will meet each other again? If so, what might happen?
- How did the light in the illustrations change as the story progressed? Discuss with the class.





# Shadow Activity Ideas



## Shadow Theatre / Shadow Play

Use a box to make a small theatre or a sheet with a lamp behind it to create a shadow show. Children can make puppets or use their own bodies for a life-size shadow show! Create a play based on the story. Film the play to turn it into a short movie.

Curriculum Links: English, Drama, Media

## Shadow Drawing

Place objects on paper against a window or other source of light. Have children trace around the objects before adding colour or their own details.

Curriculum Links: Visual Arts



## Human Sundial

Children go outside and partner traces their shadow while they stand in a certain spot. They repeat this process through the day and note differences of where their shadow lands. Discuss why their shadow changes.

Curriculum Links: Science

## Shadow Hide and Seek

This must be played in an area of full sun with some shady places. The hiders find places to conceal their shadows while the seeker counts. When the seeker has finished counting, they say 'Freeze!'

The hiders must stop where they are. If the seeker finds a person with any part of their shadow peeking out, they become the seeker.

Curriculum Links: Health and Physical Education

