

NYPL After School

Activity Guides

4th–6th Grade



REFLECT – EXPLORE – INVESTIGATE



New York
Public
Library


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NYPL After School REFLECT



On the next few pages you'll find tips, books we love, and activities all about how to reflect. Reflecting means thinking deeply or carefully about something.

BOOKS WE LOVE

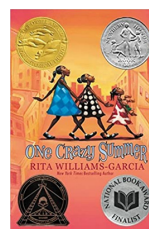
These books are some of our favorites that help us think about how to reflect. To check them out, place a hold online at nypl.org or call Ask NYPL (917-275-6975). If you are at a branch, ask a librarian how to place a hold. Books marked with a  are available as e-books.



Guts
by Raina Telgemeier



The Cardboard Kingdom
by Chad Sell



One Crazy Summer
by Rita Williams-Garcia



When Stars Are Scattered
by Victoria Jamieson & Omar Mohamed



Tight
by Torrey Maldonado



Ghost Squad
by Claribel A. Ortega



Stand Up, Yumi Chung!
by Jessica Kim



Pie in the Sky
by Remy Lai



The Science of Breakable Things
by Tae Keller



QUICK TIPS

- Keep a special journal or sketchbook where you can reflect using writing or art.
- What characters, from books or movies, do you admire or respect? Why are they special?
- Helping others can help you learn more about yourself. How can you support your family or friends?

REFLECT USING AN AGAMOGRAPH



Draw one picture in the top half of the rectangle below (the A rows) then draw a different picture in the bottom half of the rectangle (the B rows). Draw pictures of things that are important to you. After you finish drawing, cut out the entire rectangle and then cut it into strips along the dotted lines. Glue the strips onto a new piece of paper in an ABAB pattern. After it dries, fold along the AB lines in an accordion style. You've now made an agamograph – a type of art or illusion that changes when you look at it from different angles!



A	
A	
A	
A	
A	
B	
B	
B	
B	
B	

REFLECT USING A MANTRA

A mantra is a positive statement that you repeat to yourself to give you encouragement and get through hard moments. Stop, reflect, and use your mantra throughout the day. Some examples of mantras are:

"It's OK to make mistakes." "Today will be a good day." "I am smart and special."

Come up with your own mantra and write it below.

Draw a picture to illustrate your mantra. Make sure to include your mantra somewhere in the picture. If you have magazines, scissors, and glue you can create a collage about your mantra.



REFLECT: DIFFERENT KINDS OF MEDIA!



WE ALL READ, WATCH, AND HEAR LOTS OF INFORMATION EACH DAY. BUT NOT ALL INFORMATION IS THE SAME. SEE IF YOU CAN IDENTIFY WHAT KINDS OF MEDIA YOU'VE READ/SEEN THIS WEEK.

WE RELY ON JOURNALISTS TO TELL US TRUE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR CITY, COUNTRY AND WORLD. NEWS



SHOULD ONLY INCLUDE FACTS JOURNALISTS CAN PROVE, AND GIVE ALL THE FACTS AVAILABLE.

WRITE OR DRAW: WHAT WAS THE LAST PIECE OF NEWS YOU REMEMBER? WHAT INFORMATION DID YOU LEARN? HOW COULD YOU CHECK IF IT'S TRUE?

ADS!

ADS EXIST TO SELL THINGS TO PEOPLE. ADS GIVE YOU INFORMATION, BUT ONLY INFORMATION THEY THINK WILL MAKE YOU WANT TO BUY THEIR THING.



WRITE OR DRAW: WHAT IS AN AD YOU'VE SEEN OR HEARD RECENTLY? WHAT DID THE PEOPLE WHO WROTE THE AD WANT YOU TO DO?

ENTERTAINMENT!

ENTERTAINMENT IS MEANT TO GIVE PEOPLE A FUN TIME, NOT PROVIDE TRUE INFO. WHILE ENTERTAINMENT



CAN INCLUDE INFORMATION, BE CAREFUL TO DOUBLE CHECK ANY FACTS.

WRITE OR DRAW: WHAT WAS THE LAST PIECE OF ENTERTAINMENT YOU READ/WATCHED/HEARD? DID YOU ENJOY IT?

A NOTE: BEWARE OF MISINFORMATION!

MISINFORMATION IS INFORMATION THAT ISN'T TRUE. PEOPLE SELLING YOU THINGS MAY GIVE YOU FALSE INFORMATION, BUT OTHER KINDS OF MEDIA CAN TOO. PEOPLE CAN ALSO SPREAD MISINFORMATION BY ACCIDENT. MAKE SURE YOU KNOW WHERE INFORMATION COMES FROM. IF YOU'RE CONFUSED ABOUT WHETHER SOMETHING IS TRUE, ASK FOR HELP!




NYPL After School EXPLORE



On the next few pages you'll find tips, books we love, and activities all about how to explore. Exploring is a journey of discovery to new places and to find new information.

BOOKS WE LOVE

These books are some of our favorites about exploring close to home and further away. To check them out, place a hold online at nypl.org or call Ask NYPL (917-275-6975). If you are at a branch, ask a librarian how to place a hold. Books marked with a  are available as e-books.



The Gauntlet

by Karuna Riazi



The Young Adventurer's Guide to (Almost) Everything

by Ben & Penny Hewitt,
illus. by Luke Boushee



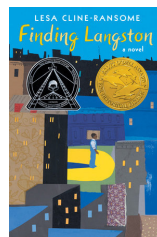
Dragon Pearl

by Yoon Ha Lee



Other Words for Home

by Jasmine Warga



Finding Langston

by Lesa Cline-Ransome



The Witch Boy

by Molly Knox Ostertag



Journey Across the Hidden Islands

by Sarah Beth Durst



The Season of Styx Malone

by Kekla Magoon



The Thrifty Guide to Medieval Times: A Handbook for Time Travelers

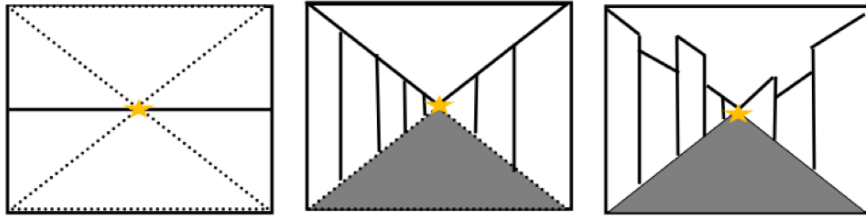
by Jonathan W. Stokes,
illus. by Xavier Bonet

QUICK TIPS

- Challenge yourself to try something new like a different food or style of music.
- Read a book or watch a movie set in a different city or country than your own. What is similar to where you live? What is different?
- Notice when you're curious about something! Stop and ask questions of an adult like a parent, teacher, or librarian—or dive deeper by doing research to answer your question.

EXPLORE USING ONE-POINT PERSPECTIVE

Use this simple one-point perspective drawing activity to capture a snapshot of your city and ease into some beginner art techniques.



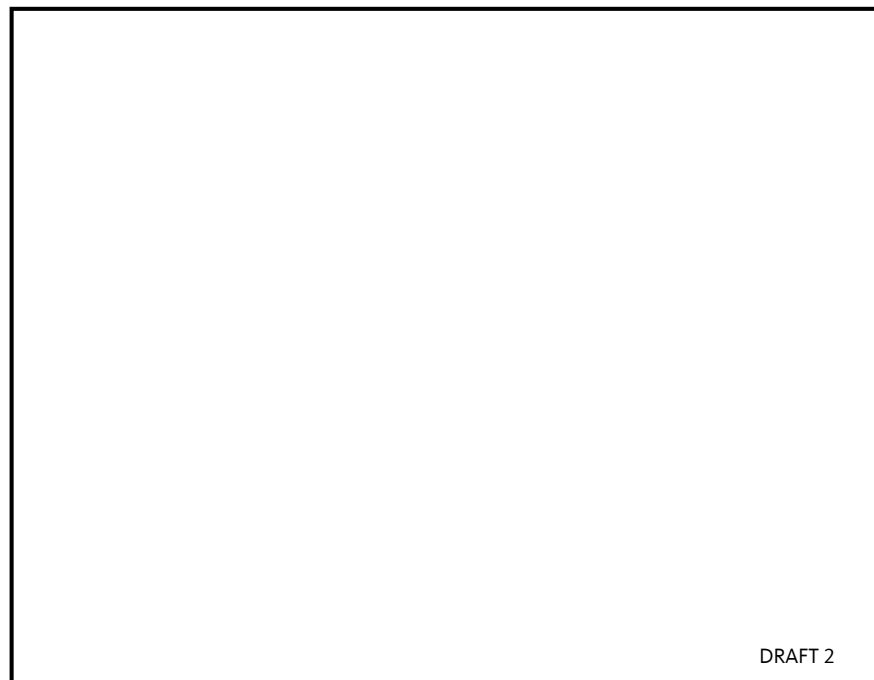
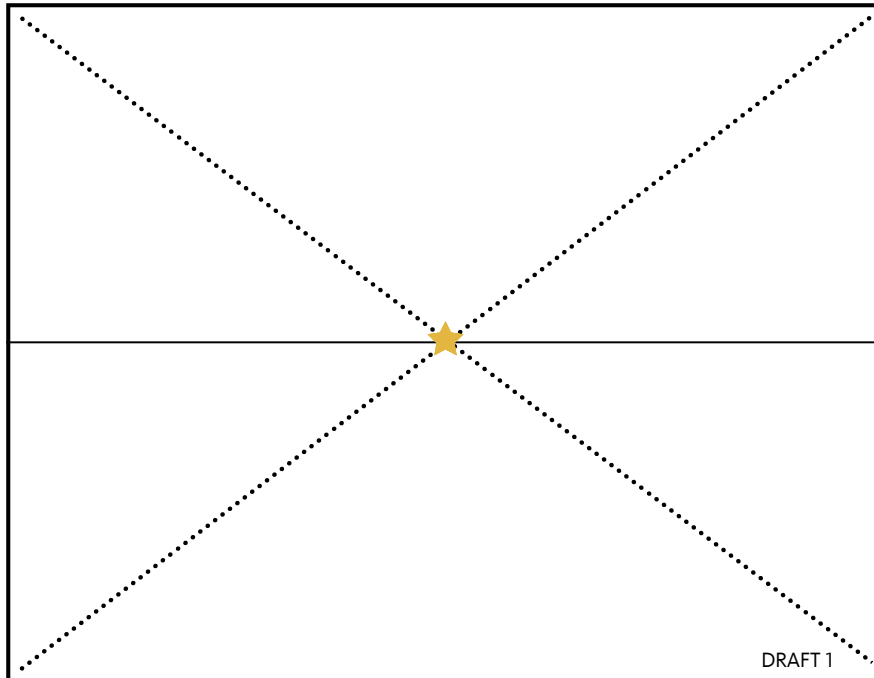
Wait! What's "one-point perspective"?

It's a drawing method that helps you show how things get smaller as they get further away until they disappear at a single vanishing point in the distance.

Using this technique, you can draw parts of your neighborhood on a flat piece of paper but make them look 3D and realistic. You just need a pencil, paper, and ruler.

Think like an artist and create a rough draft using these squares and guidelines. Make sure all of your horizontal lines are pointed in towards your horizon point (highlighted here with a yellow star).

Once you've explored all of your options, let your imagination take over and try it on a bigger piece of paper.

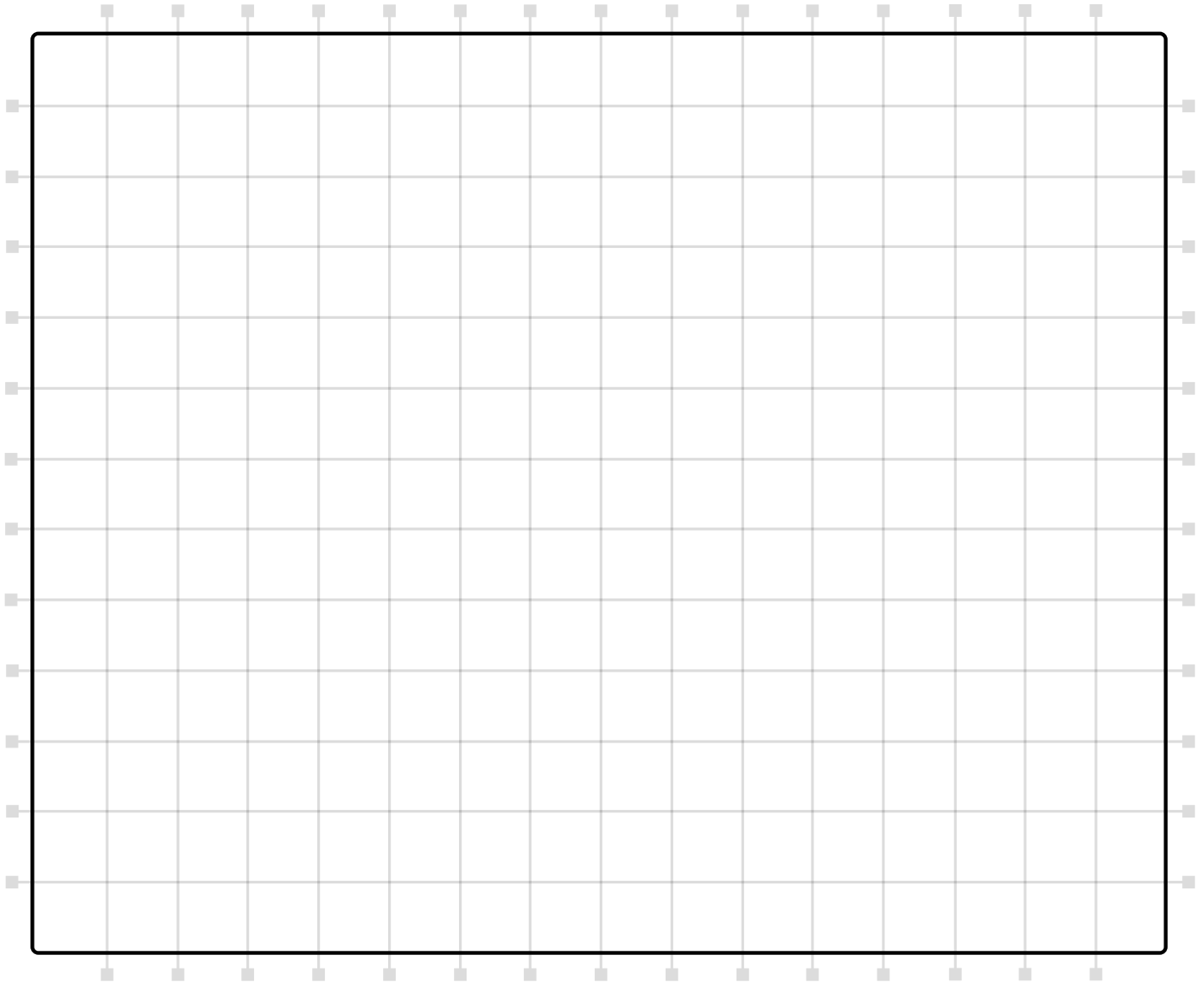


EXPLORE BY CREATING YOUR OWN COUNTRY











Create your own country using your imagination! Write the name of your country below, then use the grid to sketch it out, just like a real map!



Name of Your Country:



Use the symbols on the map key to help describe the features of your country or add your own!

 Capital	 Airports
 Cities & towns	 Roads
 Rivers	 Railroads
 Mountains	 Deserts
 Forests	 Bridges



Design your flag here.
What colors and
symbols will you use?



EXPLORE BY CREATING YOUR OWN COUNTRY

My country's capital is _____.

My country's official language(s) is (are) _____.

The population of (number of people in) my country is _____.

My country's national flower is _____.

My country's national animal is _____.

Some of my country's national resources are _____.

Use the space below to write about what your country is like. What continent is your country on—or is it an island? What is it famous for? Are there any special products that your country makes and exports to other countries? What is the weather like? You could also write about the history of your country and why people should visit. It's up to you. Have fun!


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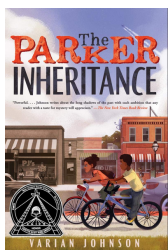
INVESTIGATE



On the next few pages you'll find tips, books we love, and activities all about investigating. Investigating means looking closely at something in order to learn something new, solve a problem, or answer a question.

BOOKS WE LOVE

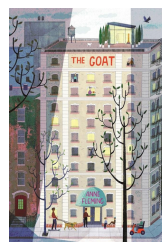
These books are some of our favorites about investigations and investigating. To check them out, place a hold online at nypl.org or call Ask NYPL (917-275-6975). If you are at a branch, ask a librarian how to place a hold. Books marked with a  are available as e-books.



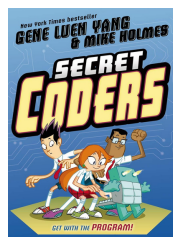
The Parker Inheritance
by Varian Johnson



Goldie Vance: The Hotel Whodunit
by Lilliam Rivera



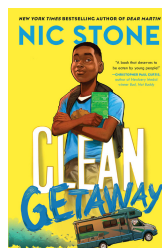
The Goat
by Anne Fleming



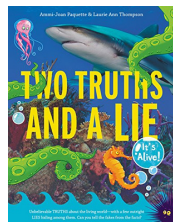
Secret Coders
by Gene Luen Yang, illus. by Mike Holmes



Strange Birds: A Field Guide to Ruffling Feathers
by Celia C. Pérez



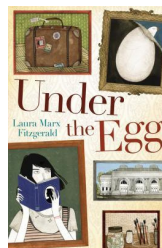
Clean Getaway
by Nic Stone



Two Truths and a Lie: It's Alive!
by Ammi-Joan Paquette & Laurie Anne Thompson



From the Desk of Zoe Washington
by Janae Marks



Under the Egg
by Laura Marx Fitzgerald



QUICK TIPS

- Keep an investigation journal. Notice what is happening in your neighborhood, watch current events, or dig deeper into a topic you've always been curious about.
- Write a story about a character who solves a mystery. What happened to the missing library books? Who is that strange new person in town? Come up with your own ideas!

INVESTIGATE BY WRITING A STORY FOR A NEWSPAPER

Newspapers contain stories about current events. The journalists who write these stories have to investigate in order to find out the facts. They then take those facts and write them into stories so we can understand what is happening in our communities and in our world.

Not sure what to write about? Think about something that is important to you, that has happened recently, or that you have a question about.



My Topic (*example: Family history*)

Now think about the central question you want to answer with your story. Define that central question by using Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How to help you start your question!



My Central Question (*example: Who was my grandmother at my age?*)



My Follow-Up Questions (*example: Where did you grow up? What was your favorite book? Where did you go to school? What is a happy memory you have from when you were my age?*)



Now it's time to find the answers to your questions! To do so, you can interview someone or do research by finding information on books or websites. Start writing what you learn below but you'll likely need to get another sheet of paper.

After you have answered your questions, pull out a blank sheet of paper and write a draft of your investigative story. Don't forget to give it a title and to use proper spelling and punctuation. Once you have your story just the way you like it, copy it into the blank newspaper page on the next page!



STORY BY: _____

[illegible]

INCLUDE A PICTURE TO GO WITH YOUR STORY

[illegible]

INVESTIGATE USING SHADOW PUPPETS

Shadow puppetry is a form of storytelling that goes back thousands of years and is practiced all over the world! Try your hand at building a movable puppet and experimenting with different light effects to tell your own story.

Materials

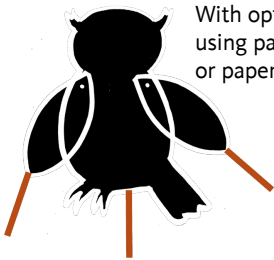
- Straws, sticks, or pencils
- Tape
- Flashlight (tip: use a phone!)
- Paper fasteners or paper clips (optional)

Steps

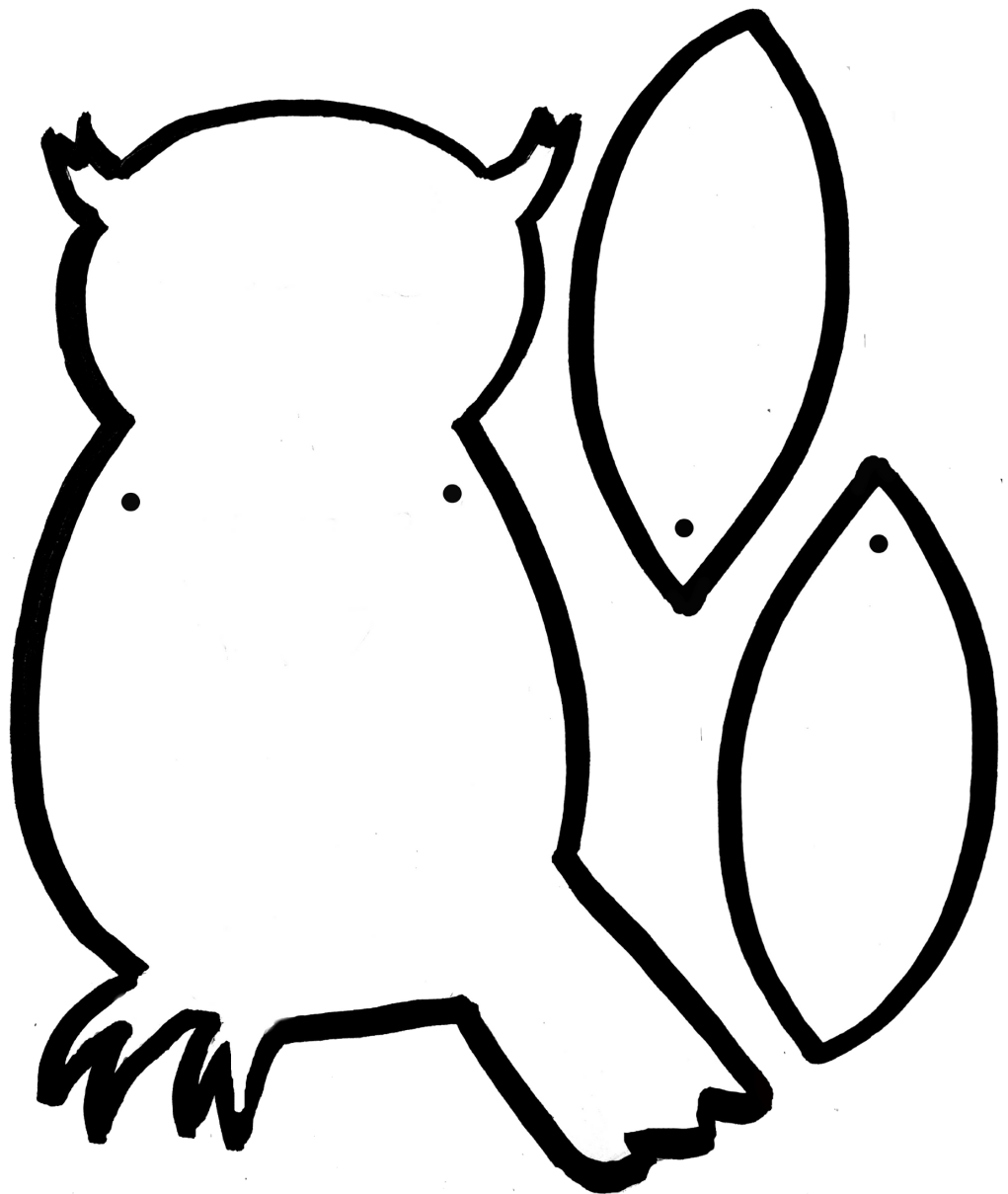
1. Cut out the template.
2. Tape a stick to the back.
3. Optional: Add wings by lining up the dots and using paper fasteners to attach. Tape sticks to each wing.
4. Hold your puppet up to a wall and shine a bright light behind it in a darkened room.



Without optional wings



With optional wings
using paper fasteners
or paper clips



Investigate!

- What happens when you move your puppet closer to the light source? Further away?
- Try using other types of paper. Which is best?
- How can you make your puppet move?
- How could you build your own template?



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