



Shadow Stories

Local history through storytelling, song and shadow



Photography by Reb Caputa

A one day Literacy and History workshop

Suitable for KS2 pupils



This engaging storytelling workshop is for up to 60 KS2 pupils, exploring local history through storytelling, song and shadow.

The session is based on the stories of two Eighteenth Century women who have passed into local folklore – Mary Bateman, the ‘Yorkshire Witch’, a con-woman and poisoner who was hanged for her crimes; and Mary the ‘Maid of the Inn’ who worked at the Inn near Kirkstall Abbey and made the gruesome discovery that her boyfriend was a murderer.

Each story will be told twice – once using words and props and then again in the form of a ballad sung to the accompaniment of a series of shadow images. Following this, pupils are shown techniques to create their own shadow images with an overhead projector and use these to retell their own versions of the stories.

Shadow Stories encourages pupils to think about local folklore and the way in which stories are told and passed on. They will explore the importance of storytelling and why the stories have lasted so long. The issues raised around social justice will also be discussed.

The workshop will:

- Facilitate the development of speaking and listening skills
- Encourage and facilitate critical thinking with respect to historical data
- Offer a platform for creative play through the construction of the shadow puppets
- Offer a platform for scientific exploration through the use of shadows and light
- Introduce pupils to local history and folklore, prompting them to consider the difference
- Introduce pupils to different methods of storytelling – oral, visual, musical

Matthew will provide all the materials necessary for the construction of the shadow puppets and scenes, along with OHP, craft materials, tools etc. However, it’s always useful if school has its own OHPs as they are heavy to carry.

Cost and Availability:

ArtForms Arts Development SLA schools- this Creative Project is at a **discounted** rate of £224

Non SLA schools- there will be a charge of £280 for this Creative Project.

Matthew Bellwood is a Leeds based writer and storyteller with a wealth of experience of working with children and young people. His background is in devised theatre and he has performed at drama festivals in Canada, Germany and New Zealand as well as throughout the UK. He currently runs *Moveable Feast Productions*, a touring Theatre in Education company, for whom he has written and produced a wide range of shows and workshops for young people. He holds a degree in Drama and Theatre Studies. He is currently focusing on storytelling and has an extensive repertoire of stories from around the world – see www.somestories.co.uk

HOW TO BOOK

[Leeds for Learning](#) is the new online booking system for all Leeds City council delivered training courses and programmes. To book this Creative Project for your school, please speak to your finance officer as they will have access to your schools Leeds for Learning account. If you have any questions or difficulties booking this Creative Project, please contact us (details below).

If you would like to sign up to our [SLA](#) you can find the details on the [ArtForms website](#) or on the [Leeds for Learning](#) website. This is a package of CPD and projects designed to support you in the delivery of your arts and cultural offer. You will also receive 20% discount on all our Creative Projects.

**Sarah Botterill, Arts Administrator,
ArtForms Arts Development,
Leeds City Academy, Bedford Field, Woodhouse Cliff, Leeds, LS6 2LG
Email: sarah.botterill@leeds.gov.uk Tel: 0113 378 2855**

In the event of cancellation by the school, ArtForms reserves the right to collect fees at a rate of: 5 days or more before delivery is scheduled- the fee is waived, 4 days or less before delivery is scheduled - 100% of full fee.