LESSON/ACTIVITY: Casting a Long Shadow  
by Susan Holland

LEVEL:  
4th grade and up

SUGGESTED TIME:  
Discussion time plus 30 minutes for the artwork

OBJECTIVE(S):  
Students will

1. discuss Evan Turk’s use of shadow to create depth in the illustrations in *Grandfather Gandhi*.
2. create a foil figure representing a human figure.
3. demonstrate understanding of cast shadow in an artwork
4. communicate ideas about a personal hero in an artwork.

MATERIALS/TOOLS:  
aluminum kitchen foil  
drawing paper  
pencils  
color media such as crayons, markers and/or colored pencils  
a light source like a flashlight, lamp or strong slanting sunlight

PREPARATION:  
After having read *Grandfather Gandhi*, examine the shadows in the cover art and find the pages in the book where shadows are shown. Discuss the way Evan Turk uses shadows in the illustrations. Sometimes the illustrator drew the shadows the way actual
cast shadows might look, and sometimes he changed how the shadow looks to depict Arun’s emotion. Compare the mood of different illustrations. How do shadows relate to themes in the book? Does Arun feel he is in Grandfather Gandhi’s shadow? Does his attitude about this change?

**PROCEDURE:**

Think of a personal hero or person you look up to. Create a foil figure to represent that person. Stand the foil figure on a drawing paper and position the paper or the light source so a shadow is cast on the paper. Trace the shadow that is cast on the paper. Fill on the shadow with a dark value and complete the artwork as desired with color media. Display shadow drawings and foil figures together.

**VOCABULARY:**

A **cast shadow** is a type of shadow that is created on a form next to a surface that is turned away from the source of light. When a form blocks the light, it causes a cast shadow to be formed. Every object that blocks light has a cast shadow associated with it.

**RESOURCES:**

*Grandfather Gandhi* by Arun Gandhi and Bethany Hegedus, illustrated by Evan Turk. Diagram for cutting the foil prior to scrunching it for the figure.

**POINTERS/ PITFALLS:**

Scrunch foil slowly when creating the figure to keep from tearing the foil. Once the figure is starting to take shape, you can refine its pose. Students may need to work in pairs or teams of three to hold and position figures and light sources.

**VARIATIONS:**

Dress the foil figure to represent the hero using paper, fabric and/or other materials. 2. Draw the figure on cardstock or construction paper, cut this out and use it to cast the shadow.
Start with a rectangle of foil, and cut in from the edges to section areas to scrunch for different body parts. Refer to the diagram:

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