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Shadow

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Lee, Suzy. *Shadow*. Illustrated by Suzy Lee. Chronicle, 2010. ISBN 9780811872805. \$15.99. 35 p.

Reviewer: Marsha Broadway

Reading Level: Preschool, Primary

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Informational; Stories without words

Subject: Shades and shadows--Juvenile fiction; Imagination in children--Juvenile fiction;

Books--Reviews;

A young girl reaches overhead to click on a light in a dark attic. Her imagination takes over as she creates shadow puppets by positioning her body and objects between the light and the floor. A happy fantasy emerges from the shadows. Then a malevolent, wolf-like creature appears and frightens the girl and her imagined characters. The wolf begins to cry as everyone flees from him. The girl and her friends move closer and cheer him as they dance together. A call to dinner bids the girl to turn out the light, and she waves goodbye. The attic goes black for a while. Another click by an unseen source brings the attic creatures back to life in a dancing frolic.

This artfully-rendered, almost wordless story uses a horizontal presentation with the gutter serving as the attic floor. The upper portion of the double-spread page provides the action; the lower portion, the imaginative shadow story. The illustrations are done in charcoal, pencil, watercolor, and yellow spray paint and are digitally manipulated. Yellow surrounds and eventually envelopes the girl's imagination. As noteworthy as Lee's *Wave* (2008), *Shadow* is a picture book to revisit multiple times as it stirs creativity and imagination. Older readers will appreciate the art and the symbols used in the story. Many young people will enjoy composing their own oral interpretation of the story. *Shadow* is a first-purchase choice for school and public libraries and a delightful springboard to shadow puppetry.

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