

ACTIVITY: OBSERVE HOW LIGHTING CHANGES THE MOOD OF AN OBJECT

RECOMMENDED AGE: 8 and up

TIME: 60 minutes (in 5 minute periods over 12 hours, can be shortened)

SET-UP: Setting an object in a natural light source (see instructions)

SUPPLIES:

- **1 object of your choice**
- **Natural light**
- **A camera**
- **Writing supplies (pencil/paper or computer/tablet)**

A Lighting Designer's job is to help the audience see the story. They light the stage to make sure the actors and set can be seen, but it also goes deeper than that. A Lighting Designer uses light, colors, and shadows to affect what an audience sees and feels. This creates different moods or emotions.

Think of people telling spooky stories around a campfire, someone will often hold a flashlight directly under their chin. When this happens, how does this make them look? How do you feel looking at them? These are the kinds of questions a Lighting Designer thinks about when they are designing.

Light changes in our own environments through the day, which can change our opinions or feelings about it. See how light changes our perception of an object over the course of the day.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Select an object, and put it in natural light for a 12 hour period. This could be next to a window, on a porch, or in a backyard. If you pick somewhere outside, you will want to make sure the object is heavy enough it cannot be blown away if it is windy. Avoid an edible object in case of wildlife or spoiling.
2. Over a 12 hour period, you will observe how light impacts how something looks. Once every hour, go to your object and take a few pictures of it from different angles. Chose 3 angles (perhaps one from the front, one from the side, and one from the top) and take these same angles every time.
3. When you're done, return your object to its usual place and review your photos. As you are looking at them, write down how the light changes from each hour. How would you describe the mood? The colors of the light? What changes in each photo? Where are the differences most noticeable?



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