The Tiny Museum of Big Whys

An Illustrated Read-Aloud Adventure for Curious Children

AGES 4–7 • ENGLISH



Tumi Tumi

ROOM 1 / 8

The Shadow That Wouldn't Sit Still

Why does my shadow change?



The first room had a warm lamp and a tall, pale wall. Nila waved. A dark Nila waved back.

"That visitor looks exactly like me!" she said. Pip bobbed beside her. "Watch what happens when you move."

Nila stepped nearer the lamp. Her shadow grew enormous. She stepped towards the wall. It became smaller. She held up one hand, and the shadow held up one hand too.

"It is following my shape," Nila noticed. She peered at the lamp, her arm and the wall. "My arm is in the way of the light!"

Pip nodded. "Where your arm blocks the light, the wall is darker." Nila made a tiny bird shape with her hands. The bird appeared on the wall, but it had no feathers or eyes. It was a shape made by blocked light.

The lamp clicked off. The shadow vanished into the dim room. When it clicked on again, the bird returned.

"You didn't run away," Nila told her shadow. "Something changed."

A violet glow appeared inside the museum lantern. Pip smiled. Nila had not caught a shadow. She had caught a clue.

REAL-WORLD WONDER

A shadow is a darker area where an object blocks light. Its size and position can change when the object or light moves. A shadow is not a separate creature, and it does not show every detail of the object.

PAUSE AND WONDER

What did Nila change when her shadow became bigger?