

'The Shadow girl'

This play was created and performed by Nagham Abu Al-Oun, Haya Orouq, Nada Hijazi, Sarah Abu Hwidi and Abeer Al -Khatib from Asma Prep B Girls UNRWA school with support from their teacher Haneen Jadalla. A recording of the play, performed by the actors is available here.. <https://youtu.be/QnXr9FXPtIg>



Activities designed by Haneen Jadalla

1. Put the students into groups. Ask them to look at this poem called "Life of a teen". Ask them to complete the blanks with rhyming words:

Every day I go on Facebook to check on my wall, I just stare and wonder if I even know you people at -----.

I go on Twitter to tweet a tweet, then on Instagram to share a random picture of my -----.

I post just about the most ridiculous things, including what I wear and what I -----.

I can't stand my page being blank and white, so I come up with a funny story, whenever I can't think of anything else to -----.

If I'm really bored I might check out someone else's page instead, to post a rude comment about something they -----.

I don't hang out with a lot of friends, but according to the internet, I have over a hundred and -----!

2) Check that everyone has got the correct answers (*all/feet/eat/write/said/ten*) or they could look at the original version to check here:

https://www.poetrysoup.com/poem/social_media_-_life_of_a_teen_485036

Now ask them to turn the poem into a song - with actions if possible. They prepare a performance of their song to perform to the others. Everyone votes on which is the best one.

3) In groups students write one sentence about each of these apps, describing their feelings or how it affects them. The sentence they write should end with a word which rhymes with the name of the app.

Whatsapp

Facebook

Instagram

Each group shares their ideas with the class.

4) Give out copies of the play script below. Ask students to read it. When everyone has done this, read out one line from the play. Ask each group to try to write down a follow up sentence that rhymes with it. For example, if you said, "You can share your birthday with cake and sweets", the students could write something like "But, I don't want to share, I only want to eat! "

Now each group chooses their own sentence from the script. When they are ready, they read it out loud and everyone has to write down a sentence that rhymes with it. After 3 minutes are up each group reads out their sentence and everyone votes on which one is the most interesting.

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Scene One: We meet three girls who represent different forms of social media and one girl who is going to use these social media tools.

Narrator: *(Singing with the shadow girl walking behind)*

One day, there was a girl who had nothing meaningful in life.
She looked around for someone to care
For real things to share.
But all around was a space
and suddenly there were three girls.
Her focus was narrow.
So she decided to live with them as a shadow.

[The three girls talk to the shadow girl and present themselves to her]

Girl 1 (Facebook): *[grabs the shadow girl's hand]* Here I am, Facebook. So let us have a look. You can upload your life events and get likes, comments and notifications. I'm with you if you are at home, work or even on vacation.

Girl 2 (Whatsapp): *[entering the stage from the other side and grabbing her other hand]* Whatsapp, whatsapp, talk ..talk .. talk. You can chat every morning; you can chat every day; you can chat when it's dark and when it's light. I mean you can use me all day and all night.

Girl 3 (Instagram): *[entering the stage from behind]* Give me your shining photos. Bring me your beautiful acts. You can share your birthday with cakes and sweets. You can upload your favourite dish of meat and you can even share your moments with family and friends, mum, dad and kids.

[sad music and the shadow girl is talking now and moving towards the front of the stage]

Girl 4 (The shadow girl): *[sad tone]* You are so amazing to use, but what if I don't have anything to share, no friends to care and no family to sit with; only time that can be described with one word, 'spare'. *[She stretches her hands right and left and closes her eyes with sadness]*

Scene Two: The three girls are trying to persuade the shadow girl to use them despite all this.

Girl 1 (Facebook): *[hitting her gently to make her wake up]* You don't have to have real ones. Just come and post and you will see millions who care about you.

Girl 2 (Whatsapp): I'm the best for you. With me, you can have friends to talk with and spend your time.

Girl 3 (Instagram): *[with a hug]* Imagine your lovely moments and just click 'upload'. Don't be so sensitive, dear.

Girl 1, Girl 2, Girl 3: *[all have a big hug with the shadow girl]* We are all near.

Girl 4: *[happily moves to change the background scenery]* Oh, let's share, let's comment, let's chat. Let us imagine a life full of colours and dollars. I have to enjoy my life on the screens. I don't care.

All four girls: *[happily flying around the stage and waving their hands above their heads]* Heeeey!

Girl 4 (The shadow girl): *[clicking]*
[with Facebook] like
[with Instagram] upload
[with Whatsapp] chat
[the three girls are jumping with happiness]

*Scene Three: The electricity goes off and all the social media has stopped working.
[Girl 1, 2, and 3 are on the ground now with heads down]*

Narrator: *[singing]*
The electricity went out.
She stared and started to shout.
She was in pain,
for everything had gone, in vain.

Girl 4 (Shadow girl): *[talking to the three girls angrily]* Darkness! What happened to you all? You are not working and not moving at all!

Girl 4: *[to Facebook girl angrily]* I want to see how many likes there are. *[to the Instagram girl]* And how many comments on my last birthday photos? *[and to the Whatsapp girl, begging]* Please show me how many chats are waiting for me? *[The girls don't move at all because there is no electricity]*

Girl 4 (The shadow girl): *[looking carefully at the audience]* Oh, I was living in the shadow and shadow leads to darkness one day. Facebook, Whatsapp, Instagram. I became an unreal girl. I'm a shadow girl because all that is happening is fake. It's like rain that disappears with the sun shine.
[The three girls 1, 2, and 3 go off stage]

Girl 4 (the shadow girl): *[with a shining background]* Now, it is my time to shine and search for real friends, real people and a real world.
[The shadow girl leaves the stage now and the narrator enters]

Narrator: *[singing]*
Social media allows masks and lies.
We need real people in front of our eyes.

*The final scene: the four girls together enter the stage as real friends,
not as social media devices and they sing the ending song.
[The four girls and the narrator singing]*
Let us be together forever and ever *[twice]*
We need to be real
Not to be fake
It is not on the screens
It is by good things we make