

# Story Bones – Mirror Mirror



Anna dislikes her reflection because she has a big pimple—a horn! Her parents stress her out by constantly commenting on her appearance and grades. She discovers two small, living figures on her shoulders. They represent her parents, always criticizing her. She can only see them in mirrors and window reflections, and she's the only one who can see them.

At school, they discuss the upcoming dancing lesson in gym class at the end of the day. Both Anna and her friend Sophie want to dance with Benjamin - definitely not with "Smelly Pete." In the reflection of the classroom window, Anna notices that Pete also has figures on his shoulders. Many of them, and none are kind. She realizes that all her classmates have figures on their shoulders—some are supportive, while others weigh them down with fierce criticism.

In the end, the teacher forces Anna and "Smelly Pete" to dance together, despite Anna's protests. In the gym's mirror, Anna sees that Pete now has a new figure: Anna, rejecting him. This prompts Anna to reflect on whether she wants to be someone who drags people down or lifts them up. She chooses the latter.

## **Playing Possibilities - Make groups of students choose their own**

- Pupils each draw themselves as they feel others see them and as they see themselves in a mirror.
- Pupils create two small figures: One that represents a critical inner voice and one that represents a kind/supportive voice. They can use clay, paper puppets, or cardboard cut-outs. Add speech bubbles with things they say!
- Pupils draw a class scene on a large paper or window transparency and add tiny shoulder figures for each character (some kind, some mean, some confused). Use sticky notes to change or transform the voices: What could they say instead?
- Pupils work in pairs. One is "Anna" and the other plays the "shoulder figure." The figure whispers messages (supportive or critical) as Anna walks through different daily situations (school, lunch, gym class).
- If you were a shoulder figure for someone in your class, what kind of figure would you want to be? Pupils write a positive supportive sentence and give to someone in class.