A Shadow Story – by Janelle Durham, inspired by Shadow Night by Chorao.

Once there was a little boy named Bob, and he lived in Bellevue.

Some nights, he would sleep in his own bed. But other nights, he would come into his parents’ room and ask if he could sleep in their bed, because he said there was a big scary monster in his room.

One night his parents went into his room with him and asked him to show them the monster. He pointed to the wall, and said “look at those scary claws!!”

His parents said “That’s not a monster. That’s a shadow of the tree in the yard. See, let’s look out the window at the tree. Tonight the moon is full, so lots of light is reflecting off of it, and that made the shadow. A few days ago you couldn’t see the shadow because the moon was just a little crescent, and wasn’t reflecting enough bright light to make a shadow.

Look, we can have fun with shadows. See, I can make a bunny rabbit.

What can you make—oh, that looks like a spider! Remember when we read the book called ARRGGHHH Spider!! It was about the spider who just wanted to find a home and some friends.

Let’s tell a story where we have our shadow spider go out and try to make some shadow friends.

First our spider met a rabbit. He said “Can I come live with you and be your friend?” But this rabbit was Charlotte the Scientist—remember we read a book about her too. And she was tired of being squished by all her brothers and sisters. So she looked at the spider and said “no! I just need some space!” And she hopped away.

So the little spider went on. Soon, he came upon a duck. He said “Can I come live with you and be your friend?” And the duck said “Of course you can. I would like that. Let’s just swim across the river—my home is on the island.”

But the spider said “uh oh... spiders can’t swim. So I guess I can’t live with you.”

He kept walking down the side of the river, and he saw an alligator. And he started to say “Can I come live with you?” But then he saw that alligator’s sharp teeth, and he ran away. Just in time! [Snap!]

The spider was walking toward the meadow, when he saw the shadow of a bird fly over him.
But he was a smart little spider and you know what he knew about birds? Some birds love to eat spiders! So he was quiet and hid in the grass.

Soon he came to a garden, and saw a shell. He knocked on the shell, and out came the snail. He said “Can I come live with you and be your friend?” And the snail said “No thank you. I prefer to live alone. But you see that window up there? If you look in that window, I think you’ll find someone who would love to be your friend.”

So the spider climbed up to the window to peek inside. And who do you think was inside that window? Why, it was a little boy named Bob, because this little spider was here in Bellevue!

He asked Bob “Can I come live with you and be your friend?” And Bob said “of course! Come on in!!” And Bob’s parents said “ARRGGHHH Spider!”

And that was the end of the shadow story.

Bob’s parents tucked him into bed, and gave him lots of kisses and went away so Bob could sleep.

But did Bob sleep?

No! He climbed out of bed, and practiced making shadows. He made a bunny, and a duck, and an alligator, and a snail, and a spider. And best of all, he made a great big Bob Shaped Monster!!!