

Let's Tell a Story

(to be used with Episode 1 of The World of Work podcast series)

Curriculum Tie-Ins: Writing, and any other topic, depending on the items chosen for your story container

Soft Skills Highlight: Creativity

Growth Mindset Challenge: Feedback Helps Me to Learn and Grow

Materials needed:

- A small bag or container
- A variety of objects to place inside of your container (these objects can be random, or tied to different aspects of your curriculum; for example, a triangle if you have just learned about this shape in math class with your students)

How to Use This Activity:

Introduce students to your story container. Have them take turns removing the various objects you have placed inside, and introduce each object. Once all objects have been introduced, tell students that they will be writing a creative story about the objects in the bag. Give students a predetermined amount of time to create their story, whatever works for your schedule or fits into the time you have available. Once time is up, break students into small groups so that they may share their story with others. Have each group member share their story, and after each story is read, have group members share one thing they liked about each story, and one suggestion they have for the writer. Students may choose to place their story in an unfinished work folder, to continue when they have spare time in class.

Activity Variations:

For younger students, grades K-1: Present the story container to you class during carpet time. Begin building the story orally. Have each student take turns adding to the story by incorporating a new object, or expanding on one already introduced to the story at your guidance. At the end of the story created by the class, ask students the following:



- What did we like about the story that we created?
- What did you want to change about our story?
- Is it easy or hard to write a story this way? Why?

For older students, or classrooms with strong teamwork ethic:

After presenting the story container, have students begin their story and write for a set amount of time, then have them swap papers with a classmate. Have them read this classmate's story to that point, then decide how to carry on with the tale. You can swap papers multiple times for added fun! To bring the activity to a close, give each student back their original paper so that they can read what has become of their story.

Then, ask students to reflect on the following questions:

- What do you like about the story that is on your paper?
- What is something you would change about the story on your paper?
- Is it easy or hard to write a story this way? Why?

This activity can be just for fun, or used as a way to further discuss the idea that accepting feedback from others, or changes to our original plans or ideas, may be difficult to accept, and how authors many times experience changes or edits to their original story ideas.

