

RAFT IDEAS

Topics: Storytelling,
Listening, Writing

Materials List

To play the game:

- ✓ 5 character props
- ✓ 5 object props
- ✓ 2 media trays
- ✓ 2 brads
- ✓ 4 pony beads
- ✓ 2 spinner circle die cuts
- ✓ 2 arrows for spinner or unbent paper clips

To make the story book:

- ✓ file folder
- ✓ two rubber bands
- ✓ tubing
- ✓ paper

This activity can be used to teach:

CO Reading, Writing and Communicating Standard 1: Oral Expression and Listening

- Listening
 - Storytelling
 - Vocabulary
 - Group collaboration
- Grades: pk, k, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, HS

CO Reading, Writing and Communicating Standard 3: Writing and Composition

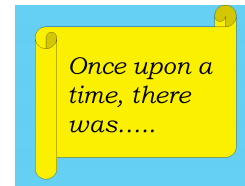
- Illustrating
- Sequencing

Grades: pk, k, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5



Craft Your Own Story

The art of storytelling RAFT style



The art of storytelling is a tradition that has spanned cultures and time periods the world over. Being able to craft a story that has a beginning, middle and end is an important step for students to developing literacy and critical thinking skills.

Assembly

1. Create a spinner (or two) from the media trays, circles, brads and pony beads (See *Spinner on a Media Tray* idea sheet.)
2. On the circles, make spaces that are either quarters, sixths or eighths, depending on how many spaces you want for the group of children you are working with.
3. Place plot or story elements into the spaces (e.g., it was in the garden, dark tunnel, hiding behind a tree was..., many years passed, a dark and stormy night, etc.)
4. Assemble the storybooks using the file folders, paper, rubber bands and tubing.
5. Use a hole punch to make two or three holes on the folded side of the file folder.
6. Place holes in the paper in the exact same places, line up the holes in the paper and the file folder.
7. Insert one looped end of a rubber band in the hole from the back. Slide a piece of tubing through the loop.
8. Slide the loop at the other end of the rubber band through the other hole or middle hole and thread the tubing through to keep the rubber band in place. (Repeat step 7 and 8 if using a third hole in your binding technique).

Playing the Game (up to 5 players at a time)

1. Have the students choose one character from the bag randomly.
2. Have the students choose one object from the other bag randomly.
3. These two toys, the character and the object are going to be the central elements of the story the students tell. The students should think of a name for their character and whether the character wants the object or already has it and wants to get rid of it.
4. Students should take turn spinning the spinner.
5. Where the spinner lands is a story element that the student needs to insert into the action of their story.
6. Students can build a group story where they are their character and they add information as they spin, and make a funny story. Or students can create their own story that they illustrate, write and/or dictate into their story book.

Cultural Connections

Storytelling has been a part of human culture since the development of language and imagination. Stories have been told through pictures and words, and have been real and imaginary. The art of storytelling is a fun way to explore language and the world around us.