



Storytellers

Description

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Help students use their creativity to come up with unique stories with three different options on how to execute the storytelling.

Supplies

- A bag filled with random words written on pieces of paper (printable version included in Downloads and Links section)

How to Play

1. Explain to your group that they will be creating their own stories in a variety of ways!
2. **Option 1:** Have the group sit in a circle. Have the group come up with a character or characters, a place, and a problem. Start a random story using the three things chosen by the group and then pause at a good point for a student to fill in a blank with a word by pointing to a student. Then continue the story until you get to another blank and point to a new student. Each student should be given a chance to say a word that adds to the sentence/story. This can go on as long as time permits or until there is a good ending to the story.
 - *Example: Characters: Zoey and Malik; Setting: at the beach; Problem: Zoey and Malik didn't know how to swim. It was a beautiful sunny day at the beach when Zoey and Malik were playing near the shore when all of the sudden a big _____ (call on a student to fill in word and then continue the story).*
3. **Option 2:** Have the group sit in a circle. Tell them that you will be starting a story with a unique sentence. The student sitting to your right will add in the next sentence and then the next student will go. This can continue until every student has a chance to add in or until there is a good

ending to the story. This should create some unique stories! Example story beginnings:

- “It was a perfect day for a soccer game, so no one expected anything to go wrong...”
- “I’m not sure we should go in there...”
- “The best surprise ever was left at my door this morning...”
- “She had always dreamt about being in outer space and now she was finally there...”
- “Once upon a time in a magical land there was a genie in a bottle...”

4. **Option 3:** Have the group sit in a circle. Provide the group with a bag filled with random words on individual pieces of paper. Pass the bag around and have each student pick a word from the bag. Choose one student to start and that student comes up with a sentence that uses the word they picked from the bag. Then the next student in the circle tries to add to the story with another sentence that includes the word that they chose from the bag. This continues until everyone has used their word and added to the story. You can pass the bag around again if time permits.

Activity Prompts for Reflection

- What was difficult about this activity?
- What helped you focus during this activity?
- When it was your turn to add to the story what emotion did you feel?
- What is one strength that you need to be good at this activity?

Other Ways to Play

- If students are having a hard time thinking of what to add to the story, you can have students join in when they think of something. Instead of going in a circle have students raise their hands when they want to add in.
- For option 3 you could have pictures instead of written words for students to pick from.
- For option 3, have the words posted somewhere in the room and have each student write their own story using the words provided. Have them share the stories they came up with by reading them aloud.
- For option 3, have the students think of a random word and write it down on a slip of paper. Add these words to the bag and have them choose a slip at random from the bag.

Additional Notes

- Use the [SEL Activity Prompts](#) to tie other SEL competencies to this activity.

Downloads and Links

[SEL Activity Storytellers – Words Cut-Out](#)

Category

1. Activities
2. Self-Management

Sel-competency

1. Self-Management

Allotted-time

1. 30 minutes

Themes

1. General