



Grades: 1-5

Collaborative storytelling provides structure to imaginative play. It encourages creativity, collaboration, and social awareness. This can be used as a warm-up before any lesson plan.

Goal: Students will use story elements and creative thinking to write original narratives.

Time: 45 minutes

Materials: copies of *Share a Story!* Student Activity Sheet, paper, pencils

Prompt: The story begins with this sentence: *Once upon a time, in a town surrounded by the tallest trees in the world, there lived a girl named Aliyah.*

Instructions:

1. What happens next? Remind students that all stories have characters, a setting, and a plot (include actions, events) but they can use these elements in imaginative ways.
2. Divide students into groups of five.
3. Distribute Student Activity Sheet 1 and review the directions with students.
4. Ask students to fill in the first story element then fold back the paper along the dotted line to hide the story element, then pass the paper to the next person in the group.
5. Ask students to fill in the next story element without looking at any other elements on the page.
6. Repeat until all story elements are complete, then have students return the paper to the person who wrote the first sentence.
7. Provide students with time to write a story that uses the elements on their activity sheets. Students can illustrate their stories if desired.
8. Students may have some unusual combinations! Encourage them to be creative as they incorporate the five elements into their stories.



Toy Tip!

Imaginative play with dolls or action figures can help improve students' communication skills.

Share a Story!



In this activity, you and your group members will combine ideas to create a surprising story. Get ready to use your imagination!

1. Fill in the next story element on the list.
2. Fold back the paper so the next person cannot see what you wrote.
3. Pass the paper to the next person in the group.

Once upon a time, in a town surrounded by the tallest trees in the world, there lived a girl named Aliyah.

(fold here)

Describe another character whom Aliyah meets. Mention personality and other qualities.

(fold here)

Describe the story's setting. Tell us about the environment, what does it look like?

(fold here)

Explain what Aliyah and the character's goal or destination is.

(fold here)

Explain an obstacle or problem Aliyah and the character will face.

(fold here)

What happens next? How do Aliyah and the character handle the problem?

(fold here)

How does this story end?

(fold here)

5. Now unfold your paper to read all of the story elements. Write a full version of the story, adding your own details. Complete, then illustrate the story.

Bonus: Try creating a new collaborative story at home with your family.