

STORY CUBES

RIDGE NOTES



WOLF RIDGESM
ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER

For a more detailed description of Story Cubes, including concepts, set-up, and background information, please read through the Story Cubes lesson plan. This can be requested from your liaison.

Supplies

Set up tables. Each table should have:

- 20 premade dice
- 4 blue
- 4 red
- 4 green
- 4 yellow
- 4 purple
- 4 dice activity cards
- DIY dice templates
- 4 DIY dice instructions sheet
- scissors
- glue sticks
- pencils
- crayons

I. Introduction (15 min)

Greet the students as they enter and take a minute to learn their names. Discuss clearly and specifically which behaviors you expect from your students during the next 1.5 hours. Explain the need for respect; for you, for each other, for the equipment. Give them a brief class overview.

On the board, write out a few of the following story starters:

- “Once upon a time...”
- “I was walking down the trail when...”
- “I still remember when...”
- “I opened my eyes to see...”
- “The teacher told us that...”
- “It was a perfect day until...”

Tell students that they will be creating and telling stories tonight and sharing them with others. While they are expected to participate and tell some stories to their smaller groups, they won't be expected to tell a story in front of the whole class unless they want to.

Stories are all around us! Not just in books, but think about all the movies and tv shows you have seen. When you are gathered with your friends or family, they probably tell each other stories all the time. Stories have been an important part of human history. They are used to:

Explain a culture's understanding of how the world works.

Pass on cultural traditions and taboos.

Make sense of something that happened to you.

Build understanding between a group of people.

Many more reasons!

Ask if there is anyone who wants to share a quick story that starts with any of the phrases on the board before moving on to the next section.

II. Wolf Ridge Story Dice (30 min)

Before having the students tell stories of their own, introduce the 5 elements of a story. Write these out on the board and see if the students can tell you what each word means before you tell them the definitions.

CHARACTERS - The person, animal, etc. that the story is about. There can be more than one.

SETTING - Where and when the story begins. What does the space around your characters look like? This can change as the story moves on.

PLOT - What the story is about. What is happening?

CONFLICT - What is challenging for the characters in the story, some sort of problem to solve. A hard part of the day? A mystery to solve?

RESOLUTION - This is the solution to the problem.

Have students break up into groups of 5. Give each group a set of one of each of the 5 colored dice with pictures on them. Give each group an activity card which they will go through with their group. Tell them they should spend at least 5 minutes per activity so they can take time to come up with good stories, but they can take more if needed.

III. Do It Yourself (DIY) Story Dice (40 min)

Give each student a story dice template. Have them follow the instructions for creating the DIY dice at their table.

After they have created their dice, they will use the same activity cards as before to tell stories with their new dice.

IV. Conclusion (5 min)

Ask students a few of the following questions:

Is there anything new you learned about storytelling today?

Does anyone want to briefly share an interesting story they heard a partner tell?

What were the 5 elements of a good story?

Did you enjoy telling stories to each other? Why or why not?

V. Clean up

- Have students recycle all left over pieces of paper.
- Replace all items neatly in the bin and return to the kit room along with posters and TV.
- Wash hands and table tops with soap and water after class.
- Stack tables and chairs and close windows.

Five Elements of a Story: https://users.aber.ac.uk/jpm/ellsa/ellsa_elements.html

