



## Lesson: Storybook Adventures

Ages: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

Supplies needed: Children's Storybook

Project Intro: This lesson provides children with the opportunity to bring their favorite storybook characters to life by stepping into their shoes and creating tableaux to tell the story using their bodies.

Materials Reference: Ruhi Institute, Teaching Children's Classes, Grade 2

Project steps:

### Warm-Up Activity:

- **Storytelling**
  - Tell all of the children and other family members participating to sit in a circle. Someone will start to tell a story with just one word and as you go around the circle, each participant will add a new word to keep adding to the story.
    - For example:
      - Person 1: One
      - Person 2: day
      - Person 3: a
      - Person 4: little
      - Person 1: girl

- Person 2: went
- Person 3: to
- Person 4: the
- Person 1: park
- Person 2: to
- Person 3: walk
- Person 4: her
- Person 1: dog
- Person 2: and
- etc etc

- **Props and Objects:**

- Go around the house and find random objects (some examples: a plate, spoon, cup, oven mit, remote control, candle, throw pillow, coaster).
- Take all of these objects and form a circle with other participants (children and their siblings and parents can all participate), placing all of the objects inside of the circle. One by one, the first child will pick up one of the items and using his/her imagination think of what that item could be other than what it actually is (for example, a spoon could be a magical wand or a microphone to sing into or a mirror to look into). The first child passes the object to the second child and the second child then decides what else the object could be and the object continues to be passed around the circle so all children have an opportunity to decide what else it could be.

### **Drama Activity:**

- **Storybook Adventures:**

- Have the children pick out their favorite book and choose their favorite character from that book. Have them look at how the character is dressed and see if they have any clothes in their closet they could wear as a costume to pretend they are that character. Have them look at the objects they gathered in the previous activity and decide what could be used as props in their production.

- Next have them create tableaus of their favorite scenes from the story by freezing in place to re-create the story (siblings and parents can be part of the tableaus as well). The children should read each scene and make note of:

1. What is the setting of each story?
2. What are the characters doing in each scene?

Have them decide how they will re-create the scene using their bodies, representing the character's actions, but in a frozen position.

#### Drama Vocabulary:

**Costume** – Clothes that actors wear when playing a character

**Props** – items that actors use on stage as part of their production

**Setting** – where the story takes place

**Tableau** – a frozen picture where all performers on stage show the actions of the character within the scene