

Message In a Bottle

Help your students write a story about an imaginary adventure and send it to their friends as an iconic “message in a bottle.”

Level: Advanced

Time: 1 hour

Materials: maps of the world, empty plastic bottles with caps (one for each child), board

Objectives: Students will use targeted language and an identified prompt to write a story and respond to a peer’s story.

1. Motivation/Warm Up

Tell children that each of them is going to write a tale about an imaginary adventure that has left them stranded on a deserted island. Explain that the only chance for rescue is to write a message, put it in a bottle, and put the bottle in the water, with the hope that someone will find it.

2. Presentation

Brainstorm with children the kind of information they should include in their tales. For example, they might want to explain who they are, where they were going when they got stranded, where they came from, and how they were traveling. Offer students a map or the names of countries so they can describe where they are stranded. They should include information about the climate, what the island is like, what plants and animals they have seen, and how they are surviving. Record their suggestions on the board.

3. Practice

Students should use 30 minutes to write their story. When students have finished, have them place the tales in the bottles and set the bottles “afloat.” Then have each student take a bottle (not their own) and read aloud the tale.

4. Produce

For homework, students should take home another person’s message in a bottle and write a story about how they found and rescued that person from the stranded island.