

Story Sticks

Use tactile prompts to write an interesting story.

Level: Beginner

Time: 45 minutes

Materials: story sticks or slips of paper (1 of each color for each student)

1. Motivation/Warm Up

Give each student a stick or slip of paper of each color: yellow, red, green and blue. Ask the students to first write a person, any person (by name or noun) on the yellow stick. Then ask the students to write a problem, any problem on the red stick. (The problem will be the most difficult so it's wise to have some ideas to offer: lost, all alone, it's dark, there's a monster, there's a fight, poison, etc.) Ask students to write any place on the green stick. Instruct students to write any noun or verb on the blue stick, encourage them to additionally use an adjective or adverb. Collect all the sticks or slips of paper and put these in cups or in a pile at the front of the room.

2. Presentation

Teach (or remind) students about the elements of a narrative text. Each story has characters and settings, a conflict and solution, and a beginning, middle and end.

3. Practice

Model the instructions for the students. Blindly pull a story stick of each color from the pile. Use these story sticks to build a story. (Yellow = character, Red = conflict, Green = setting, Blue = "Special") Ask confident students to do the exercise one by one orally.

4. Produce

Pass out a set of story sticks to each student and assign the task to write a story. Weaker students can work in pairs.