



Story Cubes

Story Cubes are great for sequencing stories and allowing children to explore the underlying structure of a tale. They are a performance aid that the pupil can hold, manipulate and show while telling the story to an audience of their peers (or others).

They are a 3D storyboard, but can also be used as an aide memoire, boosting the confidence of nervous children especially because they take the audience's gaze away from the teller's face and onto the pictures on the cube.

Essentially a task for each pupil working independently rather than a group activity, Story Cubes are easy to make and something most children can accomplish with a minimum of help and guidance. Elements of group work can be integrated, for instance agreeing the six scenes to be depicted, but the final storytelling should reflect the individual teller.

None of the fundamental facts of a story should be changed, but there is plenty of room to add embellishments and update both language and settings.

Most importantly when pupils have command of their stories and have told and improved their tale a few times with the help and advice of their audience they can go on to write it down or experiment with it further.

Story Cubes really come into their own to help explore flashbacks, reportage and the role of a narrator. The pupil uses the cube as a dice. They roll the Story Cube and then have to tell their whole tale starting from the picture on the upper face. This can be both challenging and great fun as the pupil will have to incorporate flashbacks and asides to bring the audience up to date with those important facts that they need to know to fully understand the story.

Story Cubes in all their uses also show pupils that there are many ways to tell the same story and that different words work better with different audiences.

The sample story provided is a version of The Three Little Pigs. Although this is a story already familiar to many children don't forget to explore the numerous lessons and morals it conveys; not least of which the oft overlooked, "Keep a lock on the door and a kettle on the boil"/"Keep strangers out, but have a welcome ready for friends".



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