

# Group Stories



## Go-Around Stories

*This activity can be used as a warm-up exercise for class-dictated or individual stories.*

- 1 With the class, choose a special storyteller's object that will later be passed from student to student (for example, a hat, a knotted rope, or a magic wand).
- 2 Together, brainstorm different ideas for a new ARTHUR story.
  - Who will be in the story?
  - Where will the story take place?
  - What will be the problem in the story?
  - How will it be resolved?
- 3 Sit in a circle and give the object to a student. Ask that student to begin a story using an idea from the brainstorming session. This student then passes the object to the next student who adds a few sentences.

The object is passed from student to student until every student has had a chance to add to the story. Encourage students to spice up the story with details.
- 4 For additional storytelling practice, repeat the game several times.

### Activity Options

- Tape record the game and listen to the story later.
- Have small groups do the exercise and perform their stories as skits.
- Use e-mail to create Go-Around Stories with other classes.

## Dictated Stories

*Dictated stories provide opportunities for teachers to model the thinking and steps involved in story writing.*

- 1 As a group, brainstorm ideas for ARTHUR stories using characters, setting, problems, and solutions.
- 2 Remind students that the story needs a beginning, middle, and end.
- 3 Invite students to contribute to the story. Record their responses on the chalkboard or chart paper. (While brainstorming, you may want students to follow The Story Map activity on page 4.)
- 4 Reread the story with students and discuss revisions.
- 5 For a class book, type or print the final copy, and leave space for students to draw illustrations. Add a title page, a dedication, and an "About the Author" section with information about the class. Display the book in the classroom and share it with others.

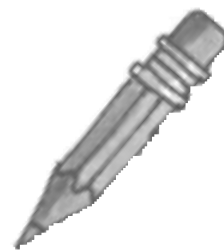
### Activity Options

- Tape record stories.
- Write story contributions on strips of paper that the class can later sequence into a complete story.
- Use this activity to introduce and model the steps in the writing process.

# Paper Bag Stories

*This is a group activity that students will enjoy over and over again.*

- 1 Label one large paper bags *Settings*, another *Characters*, and another *Problems*.
- 2 Have the class brainstorm ideas for each bag. Record their ideas on paper strips. Place the strips in the proper bags. You also might add other ideas, mix the strips and have students sort the ideas into their proper bags, or put magazine pictures or small objects in the bags.
- 3 Divide the class into small groups and ask each group to pick one item from each bag. Have groups use the ideas they have picked to create an original story. The character drawn from the bag will be the main character who will have to solve the problem. Ask students to create additional characters for their stories and decide upon an ending.
- 4 Groups may present their stories as:
  - illustrated books that can be read aloud
  - illustrated scenes used as storytelling prompts
  - improvised skits
  - TV news reports
  - mysteries with a secret that others have to guess or an ending that the audience invents
  - puppet shows



## Big Books

*Students can share their group stories using a "Big Book" format.*

- 1 Have the class dictate an original ARTHUR story using one of the group story-writing exercises.
- 2 Have each student identify and choose a scene to illustrate for the class Big Book. Students can also illustrate the front and back cover and the title and "About the Author" page.
- 3 Have students illustrate their part of the story on drawing paper.
- 4 Sequence the story illustrations and add text.
- 5 Mount student artwork on large construction paper and use notebook rings to bind the book together.

### Activity Options

- Older students can create Big Books for younger classes.
- Marc Brown often hides the names of his children Tolon, Tucker, and Eliza in his illustrations. Encourage students to hide the names of their friends and family in their drawings.
- Younger children can dictate captions for their pictures.
- Laminate the book and present it to the school library.