RETELLING THE STORY

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**Dioramas**

Dioramas are scenic representations in which figures blend into a realistic background and which can be made to represent scenes from the stories. Children can make them out of cardboard boxes and fill them with clay figures, paper figures, weeds, cotton or whatever else is handy.

For example, using the book *Birds and People*, a dry weed might be pulled for a tree. Small pictures of an owl, eagle or hawk can be made on paper and colored.
**Mobiles**

A mobile is a construction with parts that can be set in motion by air currents.

Wire or stick, or whatever you come up with.

String or yarn

Ceiling (or wherever you can hang it)

After the characters are drawn, the story can be told.

Jackrabbit used to have a puffy tail. He tickled the other animals

Coyote sure didn't like Jackrabbit's tail. He was always trying to eat the puffy tail.

The Mobiles activity can be used with any book. If the mobile is hung in a prominent place, the students can read the story any time they want.

You might also paste a large sheet of paper on a stick and then hang the characters from each caption.
Scroll Story

The children can make a scroll which tells the story from beginning to end. Have each child make a picture of the part of the story he or she is going to talk about. All the pictures can then be pasted in order on a contact paper strip.

Each child can tell his or her part of the story when the class comes to his or her picture in the sequence. The children also can be recorded so the audio and visual effects are together.

You might fit the scroll in a box for a TV effect. Roll up the contact paper with the pictures pasted on it. Slide the roll of contact paper through the box and turn the tape recorder on, just like a slide presentation with sound.

You might use the sound of a tambourine or a clap as a signal to change pictures.
Making Filmstrips

Bleach out some filmstrips with Clorox, and have the children make their own filmstrips.

The children can use felt tips and pencils to write and draw on the film.

Start from the beginning and go to the end, with picture and words.

A picture with a written caption

Raven steals from Gray Eagle the moon, sun, stars, fire and water.
Flannel Board

The Flannel Board activity is a good small-group project.

Characters can be cut out and then the children can retell the story.

This story tells how wild horses were captured.

The people build corrals with wings.

Then the people yell and spook the horses into the corral of cedar.

The flannel board story might also be an impromptu talking daydream story about whatever subject the children want, using some of the characters they have already made. Let the children get into their imaginations and go for a ride!
Murals

The children can make murals which tell a story. The children who have heard the story will know the meaning, and the ones who haven’t heard can guess what has happened in the story.
Puppet Dialogue

Puppet Dialogue allows children free-flowing verbal interaction. The puppets do the acting, and the students do the talking as they hide behind the teacher’s desk. The stage may be made any way you want it.

Yardsticks taped together to form a stage.

Hand paper puppet

At first, the talk may be impromptu. Later, a script can be made through the In Other Words or New Roles and Story Endings activities.

Read story, draw characters, make a script, rehearse, and perform.

Characters

\begin{itemize}
  \item talk to each other
  \item impromptu part
\end{itemize}
Puppet Ideas

Fold corners toward center line

Turn paper over

Fold corners toward center lines again

The paper hand puppet can be any character the child wants it to be.

Any character

Popcicle stick or pencil

A peanut can be anybody, any character.

Knock out one end of the shell and stick a pencil into it. Eyes, nose and mouth can be paper or tape.

Any character

front

back
Picture and Caption

The Picture and Caption activity is simply retelling the story.

Have the children draw a picture of a part of the story. Then have them tell that part of the story.

Raven

Bluejay

Bluejay is trying to act like Skatefish. Raven knows he can shoot Bluejay.

As the children describe the picture, write it down. The pictures can then be displayed in the classroom.

Record the children, and then play the tapes so the children can listen to themselves.

You might also have different groups of children choose a part of the story and retell it. You can then mix up the pictures, words and sound, and let the children put them in the proper sequence.
"Here's My Line"

Read and discuss the story. Orally retell the story as a group, perhaps taping the retelling to see what is left out.

Have the children form small groups in a circle or line. Together the students will retell the story in sequence. One student will start the story, and the student sitting next to him or her will add on to the previous statement until the story is retold.

This method might also be used to develop a new ending for the story.

One day, lightning struck and wiped out his fingers and that's why Cottontail has paws now.

This story tells how Cottontail lost his fingers.

Cottontail played stick game.

Cottontail never listened to his grandma's words and kept on cheating.

Cottontail cheats and he never thinks anything about it.

Cottontail's grandma told him not to cheat because something bad might happen to him.
Radio Announcer

Radio Station KIDD

The *Radio Announcer* activity is a book report given on the tape recorder. The children tell about what they read and how they feel about it.

The radio station can be made out of a large cardboard box with a sign *Radio Station KIDD* on it. A student can then stand behind the box and say:

*Hello, out there.*

*This is Little Wind on Radio Station KIDD.*

*Today's date is __________________.*

*I have read a book called______________.*

*The book is about __________________.*

*This is what happened…*

*This is how I feel about it…*

*That is how it is.*

*See you later!*  

The children might also stand completely behind the box so they can't see anybody, since on radio they wouldn't be seen anyway. The book report can be recorded, written and then posted so the children can look at it. The children might also relate their own stories in their reports.

If the children are too shy, you might try out the activity first.
Time Out

The children can change the sign on the box to Time Out and then use the box to think things over when they’re angry, upset, or when they want to be alone. This should enable the children to better cope with their feelings.

Perhaps a child will tell you that his father is dying and that is why he has not been performing in top form.

Your talking, holding, loving and caring might blow away the clouds of confusion.

Character Interview

At the end of a story the children have read or listened to, write on the chalkboard who the characters are and what happened in the story.

The children can decide on what character they want to be and then think of what that character did in the story.

The Radio Announcer and group can prepare questions to ask while the characters are getting into the story.

This is a good opportunity for lots of interaction between the students.

This is KIDD TV newsman Ron Holt interviewing the Rainbug in the story Insects Off to War.

Rainbug, what could you have done to keep from being bored?

Well, we could have made valentines.

(student pretending to be Rainbug)
Mock TV Shows

The children have seen the following shows on TV and are familiar with how they work, so you just have to make sure the questions for the games come from the stories.

Before each game, a preparation period where the students can write the questions and get ready for the game might be helpful.

Talk Show

Let the children have their own TV talk show where one person interviews the others about one of the books.

It would help if the children could view an actual interview of an author on television.

Title ________________________________

Author _______________________________

What happened?

How do you feel?

Has anything like this ever happened to you?

Hollywood Squares

This game is played just like the "Hollywood Squares" television show, except the questions to be asked are about the stories. As you know, the game is played like "Tic-Tac-Toe."

You will need nine volunteers to be the group of celebrities, and two contestants (O and X). Ask questions about one of the stories. (For example: Where is the Indian Festival?) The contestant will choose a celebrity and then agree or disagree with his or her answer. The first one with tic-tac-toe wins.

The contestants can be two groups as well as two individuals.
Game of Choice

You will need a group of children to be the panel, and two contestants.

First you will ask a question about one of the stories. One of the contestants will pick two members of the panel to answer.

One panel member will tell the correct answer, but the other panel member will lie. The contestant must choose the panel member who gave the correct answer.

The first contestant with five points wins the game.