



Short Activity
Ages 9–12
15–30 minutes

Picture Stories

Description

Write your very own story that incorporates pictures to replace some text

Number of Participants

For any number of participants

Space Considerations

Any type of space where participants can be seated to write a story by hand, or a space with access to a computer to type a story

Competencies

- Computer literacy (if typing the stories)
- Creative and imaginative thinking
- Organization and planning
- Written communication skills

Materials

- Paper
- Pencils with erasers
- Pencil crayons
- Printouts of the story pictures template
- Cut-out pictures from discarded magazines, newspapers, flyers, etc. (optional)
- Glue
- Scissors (staff use only)

Preparation

- Prepare the room for a program that uses glue
- If desired, cut out pictures from discarded magazines, newspapers, flyers, etc. for kids to incorporate into their written stories

Implementation

You can try this activity with participants writing their stories or typing them on a computer.

If writing with pencil and paper:

1. Distribute a pencil, sheet of paper, glue sticks and pencil crayons to each participant.
2. On a table, display the cut-out pictures from the [story pictures template](#) and from discarded magazines, newspapers, flyers, etc. Depending on the size of your group, you may want to cut out multiple story picture template pages so that all participants will have enough pictures to choose from. Participants can select pictures before writing their story, but they can also return to the table to select more pictures as their stories take shape.
3. Encourage kids to plan their stories before writing. The stories should include not only text but also pictures that they glue down to replace a word.
4. Encourage kids to experiment with writing out various types of font, similar to Geronimo Stilton and Thea Stilton stories. For example, the word “explode” can be a larger, more distinct lettering or in a different colour.
5. Once the stories are complete, participants can trade them with others and attempt to read them aloud, swapping in an appropriate word every time they come to a picture.

If typing on the computer:

1. Download the [Word document of the story pictures template](#), and have these available on each computer.
2. Open a new blank document.
3. Kids can begin typing their stories, and copying and pasting a picture into the story.
4. **Tip:** Staff may need to demonstrate how to get pictures to line up with the text if using Microsoft Word. Click on a picture, click the Format tab, click Wrap Text, and then select In Line with Text. To re-size a picture, click on it, and then drag the image from a corner to make it smaller or larger.
5. It is recommended to use large spacing between the lines (double or triple-spacing) so there is enough room for the pictures.
6. Once the stories are complete, participants can trade them with others and attempt to read them aloud, swapping in an appropriate word every time they come to a picture. They can do this by switching computers, or saving and then sending the stories by email.

Accessibility Considerations

- Offer larger glue sticks for affixing the images to the paper, and offer assistance as needed
- Offer a variety of writing instruments for participants to write their stories
- If available, offer participants an accessible computer space with a mouse and a larger screen; they can write their story on the computer and select online images to add to the story
- Read and print the instructions for this activity
- Read completed stories aloud for all participants to hear; if necessary, use a microphone for larger crowds
- Give participants the option to work on their stories in pairs or small groups

Book Suggestions

The Battle for the Crystal Castle (Geronimo Stilton and the Kingdom of Fantasy #13) by Geronimo Stilton

The Legend of the Maze (Thea Stilton and the Treasure Seekers #3) by Thea Stilton

Treasury of Magical Tales from Around the World by Donna Jo Napoli and Christina Balit

Download Links

[Story pictures template in PDF](#)

[Story pictures template in Word](#)

Images

The and the Poisoned

Once upon a , there lived an old  in a . The 

enjoyed reading  and playing  with his wife, who was a 

One day, an **EVIL**  realized that the  had a lot of

. She hired a **tiny**  to **sneak** into the castle and **hide** in

the  until the  delivery man arrived.