

My Creative School Tools

Part of the My Creative School Learning Resource:
Arts-led, schools-focused tools exploring new
approaches to school development
www.anewdirection.org.uk/mcslearningresource

Making the seeds to grow a story

A tool to encourage children to make the most of their vocabulary in story-writing by sparking their imaginations

What you'll need

- A big imagination
- A5 sheets of paper for your favourite words
- Something to write with
- Storyboard sheets copied onto A4 sheets of thin card, you can find this online: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/northernireland/myplacemyspace/downloads/promote-your-day-out/storyboard-template.pdf>
- Colouring pencils and pens
- Scissors
- Envelopes – you could make your own envelopes too
- A lucky dip bag (optional)
- A sheet of paper, something that is different from your usual exercise books to write down the new, bigger story

Germinating

1. Write your favourite words on sheets of paper
2. Organise the words into piles of nouns, verbs, adjectives and other
3. Get into pairs
4. Pick two words from each pile
5. With your partner write a story which includes the eight words you have picked
6. Challenge yourself: try not to start your story with once upon a time
7. Don't forget, the beginning, middle and end of your story are all as important as each other

Storyboarding

Now use your story board sheet to draw one picture in each square to show a few of the different things that happen at the beginning, middle and end of your story.

Making your 'seeds'

1. Cut out the six drawings from your storyboard, for example if you have drawn a tree, cut this out so we know that your story includes something about a tree
2. Put your six cut out drawings – your 'seeds' in a seed packet shaped envelope
3. Write the title of your story on the envelope, be imaginative with your title, you want everyone who chooses your seed packet to get excited about your story 'seeds'
4. Put all your seed packets in one pile, or in a bag that would make a good lucky dip bag

Growing stories

- Pick a new seed packet from the pile or lucky dip
- Tell a story using the drawings/'seeds' in the packet, the title will give you some clues...
- Think about how to organise the drawings/'seeds' so that you have an exciting beginning, middle and end for your story
- Ask the children who made the 'seeds' you chose to tell you the original version of their story
- See if you can combine your story and theirs, and then write this new, bigger story down

This tool was developed by Maria Amidu (creative practitioner) with Charlotte Weeks (year 5 class teacher) and Katharine Connon (SLT and year 2 class teacher) at Holy Innocents' Catholic Primary School (Bromley).

To learn more about this project go to: <https://www.anewdirection.org.uk/what-we-do/schools/my-creative-school>