



Listening Time:



28:08

SEASON 3, EPISODE 10

The Magic of Stories

Stories are magical! They are gateways to new people, places, and ideas, and they help children to build empathy and understanding — allowing them to see the world from different perspectives. As kids step into the roles of different characters, they gain insights into emotions, relationships, and the diverse experiences that make up our shared world. This helps them grow into compassionate and thoughtful individuals! Stories also have MANY other amazing powers — like helping children build language and literacy skills and helping to grow the bond between parents and children.

In this episode of Little Kids, Big Hearts, three children (Olivia, Anusha, and Moses) explore the power of stories. They discuss some of their favorite stories and characters and then they travel to the Land of Qook-a-lackas to help a Qook-a-lacka friend, Quimmel, write a story that they title "The Cat Gets Wet" to meet an upcoming deadline for the Qook-a-lacka Summer Story Festival!

The guest star in this episode is Nick Blaemire, a writer, actor, and director based in Brooklyn, NY.

These activities will help students build on the ideas that are introduced in the episode. They'll think about elements of stories and create their own stories, working together!



Little Kids, Big Hearts Podcast

Learning Extensions

Story Building Blocks

1st -3rd Grade



Goals

- ♥ Work together to build relationships among children
- ♥ Cultivate empathy
- ♥ Inspire creative thinking and build storytelling skills

Instructions



Play the Episode

If the class has not yet listened to the "Magic of Stories" episode of Little Kids, Big Hearts, start by listening! It's wherever you listen to podcasts. Learn more (or listen) at playsparkler.org/podcast.

Materials



Get Ready! Here's what you'll need:

- ♥ Pens or pencils
- ♥ Scissors
- ♥ Your imagination!

Discussion



In the episode, Todd and the kids help Quimmel, the Qook-a-lacka storyteller, brainstorm ideas for a new story to submit to the Qook-a-lacka Summer Story Festival. We learn that every great story has some of the same “building blocks.” Let’s talk about the “building blocks” of stories. Who wants to share the building blocks of the story the kids create in the episode, “Cat Gets Wet”?

Here are some to consider:

- ♥ The hero (A cat named Buttercup, who was black and white and brown)
- ♥ A setting (The Land of Qook-a-lackas)
- ♥ A problem (Cat gets wet!)
- ♥ Possible solutions (How does the hero try to solve the problem? Shaking, climbing, towel...)
- ♥ A helper (Who do they meet on their journey that can help them? Buttercup meets a Bunny).
- ♥ Some magic (This can be a magical power, a spell, or surprising event)

Activity



Using the **Story Building Blocks** on the following pages, the children can break into small groups and brainstorm their own story building blocks. They can write (or you can help them write) their ideas on building blocks. Then create 1 bag of hero blocks, 1 card of setting blocks, and so on. Then, as a class, randomly pick building blocks from each bag to build a class story together!



STORY BUILDING BLOCKS

Who is the hero of our story?

Empty dashed box for writing the hero's name.

Empty dashed box for writing the hero's name.

Empty dashed box for writing the hero's name.

What is the hero's name?

Empty dashed box for writing the hero's name.

Empty dashed box for writing the hero's name.

Empty dashed box for writing the hero's name.

What are the hero's characteristics?

Empty dashed box for writing the hero's characteristics.

Empty dashed box for writing the hero's characteristics.

Empty dashed box for writing the hero's characteristics.

What is the story's setting?

Empty dashed box for writing the story's setting.

Empty dashed box for writing the story's setting.

Empty dashed box for writing the story's setting.



STORY BUILDING BLOCKS

What Problem does
the hero face?

Empty dashed box for writing the problem the hero faces.

Empty dashed box for writing the problem the hero faces.

Empty dashed box for writing the problem the hero faces.

What are some
possible solutions?

Empty dashed box for writing possible solutions.

Empty dashed box for writing possible solutions.

Empty dashed box for writing possible solutions.

Who will help solve
the problem?

Empty dashed box for writing who will help solve the problem.

Empty dashed box for writing who will help solve the problem.

Empty dashed box for writing who will help solve the problem.

Magical Element:
What can help solve
the problem?

Empty dashed box for writing the magical element that can help solve the problem.

Empty dashed box for writing the magical element that can help solve the problem.

Empty dashed box for writing the magical element that can help solve the problem.



Comic Story Artist

K-3rd Grade



Goals

- ♥ Practice fine motor skills
- ♥ Inspire creative thinking
- ♥ Build storytelling skills

Instructions



Play the Episode

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Materials



Get Ready! Here's what you'll need:

- ♥ Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- ♥ Your imagination!

Discussion



Comics are stories told in a sequence of panels, using words and pictures. They use the same story building blocks as all stories! Let's talk about the building blocks of our favorite stories and then each use these building blocks to create our own comics!

- ♥ **The hero:** Can we think of a book that has a great hero? Why do we love this character? What qualities and characteristics make them memorable?
- ♥ **The setting:** What are the settings of our favorite stories? What do they look like? Are they similar to where we live or different? How can we tell where the story is set?
- ♥ **A problem:** Sometimes this is a conflict or a block that is keeping the hero from getting something they want. Can we think of some problems we see in our favorite stories?
- ♥ **Possible solutions:** What ways does our main character try to solve their problem? What are the steps in the journey?
- ♥ **A helper:** Who are the helpers in the story? This could be someone they already know or meet on their journey. Why is this character so special?
- ♥ **Some magic:** Magic can be as simple as a new way of thinking (e.g., in "Giraffes Can't Dance" the magic comes from inspiration shared from the cricket). What's the "magic" in your favorite stories?

Activity



Using the comic template on following pages, invite the class to draw their own comic that includes all of the story elements explored in the discussion.



Comic Story Artist

There was a ...

**Once
upon a
time...**

**This is where
they live**

They have a big problem!



They tried...

and tried...

and tried...

to solve the problem!

Until they met:

**and they brought
some magic with them ...**

Problem solved!

Our hero felt...

**THE
END**