



## Story Starters

### Fun & Excitement:

Enjoying what you are doing whether at work, school, or play. Thinking differently can be very fun and engaging.

### Objective:

Students will be able to create a progressive story by collaborating and building on each other's ideas.

### Materials:

Scene starter slips from books or personalized story starters based on your curriculum.

### Steps:

- Tell students that they are going to play an improvisation game. Everyone will have a turn to tell the story and to act out his or her part.
- Break the class into two groups.
- Give each group a scene starter.
  - Story Starter 1: The school dance was completely ruined when . . .
  - Story Starter 2: I couldn't believe it when my teacher said we were going on a field trip to . . .
  - Story Starter 3: It was just like every other day during show and tell until Kevin brought in . . .
  - Story Starter 4: It was the most unusual recess we have ever had and it all began because we started to play . . .
  - Story Starter 5: Kyle and Brianna stood there in awe when they looked up and saw . . .

- Someone should start a scene based on the piece of paper you give him or her. Once the scene begins, the next person should continue the story but add a new direction to it. For example, if the scene starter is: “It was the last five minutes of the championship baseball game . . .” the next person might add “Who knew, at that very moment that Brian was asking Riley to prom.” A third student might continue by saying “As Casey stood their alone watching, she got an urgent phone call with the exciting news.”
- Explain that the game involves continuing the story but taking it in a new direction.
- The story can also be told through writing. Create an Edmodo group for each story scene and have students add on to the story by adding comments.

### Personal Reflection:

- Was it a challenge to think differently for this activity?
- Describe a real-life scenario where thinking differently could help you.

### Group Reflection:

- What skills did you have to use for this activity? Why are these skills important?
- In the activity, was there a right or wrong answer?
- Was it difficult to think differently for this activity?
- What was it like thinking of a story on the spot?
- Together, create more scene starters.

### Extended Learning:

Have students think differently through creative writing prompts. Invite students to visit the [Scholastic Story Starters](#) page. Have them select a story starter theme and type in their name and grade level. Tell them to spin the lever to get a fun, creative prompt such as “Write an e-mail to a dreadful mermaid who is looking for an invisible door.” Have them pick the format. When they are finished they can e-mail or print their story!

Students can create their own storyboard on the [Storyboard That](#) site.