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Pictures That Tell a Story

Cletus looked through magazines and peoples' photographs as if he were sampling a box of chocolates (Chapter 4). He had a great imagination and liked to create stories about the pictures he collected.

Before the Lesson

Have students bring in old magazines that contain photos of people. The teacher should cut out photos of people of different backgrounds in interesting settings doing a variety of activities.

Directions

- Hand out a different picture to each student.
- Have each student write a story about the person in the picture. If you want to use prompts to help them write, some suggestions are given below.
 - What is this person's name?
 - What is the person doing? Why?
 - Where does this person live?
 - What does this person do for a living?
 - Does he or she like his or her job? Why or why not?
 - Where and when did you meet this person?
 - Tell us one thing you learned from this person.
 - What event is coming soon?
 - How does he or she feel about it? Why?
 - What do you hope or wish for this person?
- After students have written their stories, move them into groups of four and instruct them to take turns sharing their stories.



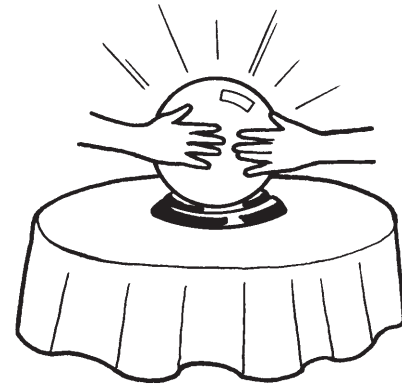
Extensions

- Group Story**—The students write a group story connecting all their characters. Groups take turns reading their group stories to the class.
- Computer Stories**—If computers or a computer lab are available, students can practice keyboard skills by typing these stories out to be displayed on the wall with the pictures.
- Round-Robin Stories**—Stories can be created by groups. Place students into groups of four. Pass out one picture per group. Ask students to work without talking. The teacher reads the first prompt and Student 1 answers. Then he or she silently passes the paper to Student 2. Student 2 answers the second prompt and silently passes the paper to Student 3. This continues until all prompts are answered. Then the students work together to write a cohesive story from the answers they have provided. These prompts will help make the story interesting, reflect attributes of the picture, and help the story make sense.
- Writer's Circle**—When the students finish their stories and read them aloud, have them critique the stories by asking the following questions: What did they like about the story? What were their concerns as a reader or listener? Do they have any other questions or suggestions?

Psychic Writing Prompts

Summer, Ob, and Cletus were unable to meet with the psychic, Reverend Miriam Young. They were hoping to be able to communicate with May. If the psychic had been alive, perhaps they would have been able to receive a message from May.

Some people believe they can talk with psychics to find out the future. Suppose the Reverend Miriam Young gave you a message. Please write at least one page about what your life will be like. (*Note to the teacher:* Photocopy the prompts below. Cut up the psychic messages and put them into a bowl. Have students randomly select prompts for their writing.)



Writing Prompts

- You will win the lotto. Great news, but everyone wants something from you . . .
- I see a packed suitcase. Soon you will take a trip to an adventurous place . . .
- People are crowded around you. They look to you as a hero/heroine. They lift you in the air and cheer, “Three cheers for . . .”
- As you take a peaceful walk through the countryside, you are approached by two friendly aliens who ask you to go with them . . .
- As you enter the stage, the curtains open, and the crowd applauds . . .
- I see your future clearly—you are the world’s greatest flea trainer . . .
- The airplane in which you are flying has to make an emergency landing on a deserted island . . .
- You always said you did not believe in ghosts, but suddenly you have the power to communicate with them . . .
- This is an out-of-this-world experience! NASA has selected you to be the first student to travel to the moon . . .
- Always remember to keep a compass and map with you when you travel . . . I see you become lost while traveling in the Himalayas.
- You will be asked to appear on a famous television program to discuss your latest dinosaur finds . . .
- I see you as a future candidate for president of the United States, but it is uncertain whether or not you win . . .
- After drinking what you thought to be water, a strange feeling comes over you . . . Suddenly, you shrink . . . smaller and smaller . . .
- You will be a very important person. You find a cure for the common cold . . .
- You are in a damp, dark place. Bats are flying around. You are in a cave . . .
- It is 15 degrees below zero. You are getting ready to enter the Iditarod—the annual 300-mile dogsled race . . .
- There are so many stories you will be able to tell about your trips—I see you sailing around the world . . .
- In the future, you have created the greatest game in the world. Everyone wants to buy it and play it. They all want to know where you got the idea for it . . .