

Illustrations: The Gateway to Storytelling

In this Activity: Students will explain what is happening by analyzing clues they pick up on within the image.

Literacy: Visual Literacy and Reading of Images

Why?: Help students gain knowledge from reading images instead of words

Educational Benefits:

-> Helps students become more socially literate

Activity Length: 20 minutes

Ages: First Grade, Second Grade, Third Grade

(How)

-> Pick an image that is open ended

-> Examples below

-> Introduce this image to the class

-> Have the students talk about what they notice about the picture

-> “What do you see in this picture?”

-> “How do you think the subject feels?”

-> “Why do you think that?”

-> Have the students write a quick free write about what could be happening in this image

Modification: *(If used, modifications will effect length of the activity)*

1. Continue with the one image (additional 20 minutes)

-> Have the students use the first image as a jumping off point and create a full story

-> Or use the one image to move into the next modification

2. Wordless Stories (40 minutes)

-> Pick a picture book that has no text

-> Photocopy the picture book

-> Give groups of students a copy of the picture book

-> Have students create their own stories based on clues from the illustrations

3. Speech Bubbles (Additional 10 minutes)

-> Give the students sticky notes and have them create speech bubbles to express what the characters are saying within the picture

4. Thought Bubbles

-> Give students sticky notes and have them create a thought bubble to express what the character(s) are thinking but not saying out loud

5. Do both modifications 3 and 4. (Have students write what the character is saying and what they are thinking but not saying out loud)