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Make-It Storybook Lab with Kathryn

Instructions:

Check out this sample lesson plan and activity ideas for inspiration, ideas, and more. Feel free to edit, delete, or highlight to make it your own! These notes are yours to customize. They will not be published anywhere such that you're held to teaching exactly what's here.

Topics

Explore crafts + reading/literature through fun, hands-on activities. Students will build skills, express creativity, and have a blast each session!

Lesson Ideas

Lesson Title

Crafts + Reading/Literature

Duration

1 hour

Lesson Plan

1. Introduction to the Theme (5 minutes)

- Briefly introduce the theme of the day: Combining crafts with reading and literature.
- Discuss how stories can inspire creativity and how crafts help us visualize what we read.

2. Story Reading (15 minutes)

- Choose a short story or an excerpt from a children's book.
- Read the story aloud, encouraging students to visualize and connect to the characters and setting.
- Ask questions to engage students and check comprehension.

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3. Discuss and Plan Craft (10 minutes)

- Discuss the story's characters and setting with the students.
- Brainstorm as a group to decide on a craft project inspired by the story. (E.g., creating a character puppet, a setting diorama, or a story-based bookmark.)

4. Craft Activity (25 minutes)

- Work on the craft activity decided upon in the previous step.
- Provide guidance and help as needed, allowing students the freedom to express their creativity.

5. Share and Reflect (5 minutes)

- Allow students to share their completed crafts with the group.
- Reflect on how their creations relate to the story.
- Encourage students to express what they enjoyed about the activity.

Materials List

- A selection of age-appropriate short stories or book excerpts
- Craft supplies (construction paper, colored pencils, markers, glue, scissors, etc.)
- Additional materials depending on chosen craft (e.g., popsicle sticks for puppets, shoeboxes for dioramas)
- Optional: Pre-made examples of possible crafts for inspiration

Adaptations for Different Ages

- Younger Students: Use simpler stories and provide templates or pre-cut shapes for crafts.
- Older Students: Choose more complex stories with deeper themes and offer more challenging craft projects.

Movement Break

- Midway through the session, incorporate a quick movement break. Encourage students to act out a scene from the story or perform a quick sequence of movements related to the characters.

Bonus Activities

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- For early finishers, provide additional resources for drawing their favorite scene from the story.
- Create a collaborative mural with every student adding an element from the story.
- Suggest a story-writing activity where students can write a new ending or a sequel to the story read.

Series Outline

****Week 1: Introduction to Crafting with Stories****

- Read a short story and identify themes or characters that could inspire craft projects.
- Create personalized bookmarks featuring elements from the story.
- Group discussion about favorite books and potential craft ideas related to them.

****Week 2: Character Puppets & Theater****

- Read a story with memorable characters and discuss character traits.
- Craft puppets using socks, paper bags, or other materials to represent characters.
- Perform a short puppet play retelling scenes from the story.

****Week 3: DIY Storybooks****

- Explore the structure of stories by reading a short tale.
- Craft a small booklet using paper and art supplies to create an original story.
- Share created storybooks in small groups and provide positive feedback.

****Week 4: Poetry Collages****

- Introduce students to different types of poetry.
- Create a collage using magazines or newspapers to create found poetry.
- Present poetic collages and discuss the inspiration behind them.

****Week 5: Nature-Based Crafts Inspired by Stories****

- Read a nature-themed or adventure story.
- Go on a nature walk to gather materials for crafting (leaves, twigs, etc.).
- Create nature-inspired art based on scenes or elements from the story.

****Week 6: Mythical Creature Creations****

- Explore myths or legends from various cultures.
- Design and craft a mythical creature using clay or other craft materials.
- Write a short backstory for the creature and share with the class.

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****Week 7: Illustrated Poetry Books****

- Read a selection of age-appropriate poems.
- Create illustrations for one or more poems, combining drawing and craft skills.
- Assemble illustrations into a personalized poetry book.

****Week 8: Crafting with Fables and Morals****

- Discuss the purpose of fables and their morals by reading several examples.
- Create a diorama or shadow box that depicts a scene from a fable.
- Write a reflection on the moral of the chosen fable and how it applies today.

****Week 9: Story-Inspired Jewelry or Tool Making****

- Explore stories that include special items or tools (e.g., magic rings, swords).
- Design and craft a piece of jewelry or a tool using beads, wire, and other materials.
- Share the significance of the crafted item in the story context.

****Week 10: Culminating Craft Showcase & Celebration****

- Set up a class exhibition of all crafts made throughout the weeks.
- Invite family or other classes to a showcase walk-through.
- Reflect on what students learned about literature and crafting.

For additional support, reference this [experience outline template](#) which includes tips and prompts to help you develop and lead an excellent Grasshopper Kids experience.

Note: This lesson plan outline was drafted by Hopper. If you would like to see different results, you can [submit another idea](#), or text us with feedback so we can work to make the algorithm better. We built this tool to help save you time in bringing more kids enrichment experience ideas to life!

