



Tell A Tale of Think-ets™

LESSON OVERVIEW: Students will use Think-ets™ as a prompt for storytelling and for an oral and/or written contrast and comparison exercise.

Curriculum Content Area: Language Arts

Correlation to National Standards:

Language Arts—apply knowledge of language structure, convention, techniques; employ a wide range of communication strategies.

Skill Development: plot development, compare and contrast

Grade level: PreK-5, directions are written for students who have writing skills. If working with a younger group, adapt activities to be oral storytelling or descriptive narrative.

Lesson Summary:

Objective:

Students will select three trinkets and use them in an oral or written story. Students will draw two trinkets and describe a link between them.

Time required:

Two class periods with one homework assignment

Materials required:

Think-ets™ Classroom Pack

Vocabulary:

Analogy: the cognitive process of transferring information from a particular subject (the source) to another particular subject (the target), and the linguistic expression illustrating the process, i.e. comparing two pairs of words.

Compare: to examine two or more things in order to discover similarities and differences between them

Contrast: to compare in such a way as to emphasize their differences

Activity:

Day One

1. Spread the contents of the Think-ets™ Classroom Pack out on a large table.
2. Describe assignment: select 3 trinkets and write a story that uses all the items. For example: if I picked a shell, a fish bead and the dolphin, I could write a story about being at the beach and what I saw there.
3. Call students up to the table in groups of 3 to 5 to select their three trinkets each. Encourage selection of items that are not all from the same category, such as all animals or all drinking vessels.
4. Allow class time to write short stories.
5. Assign completion of stories as homework, if needed.

Day Two

1. Put an assortment of trinkets into a drawstring bag or other container from which students can draw them out without seeing them in advance.
2. Direct students to each draw two trinkets out of the container without looking.
3. Recall the attributes that were explored in the categorization lesson (All Sorts of Sorting) and ask students to see how their pair of trinkets can be described. Prompt discussion with questions such as:
 - What could one of your trinkets do to the other one?
 - Which of your trinkets is harder?
 - Which one is heavier?
 - Are both of your trinkets tools?
 - Are they both things that someone could find in a kitchen?
 - Is one of your trinkets useful?
 - Does either of your trinkets represent something that is real?
 - Are one or both of your trinkets made of natural materials?

4. If you are working with younger students who haven't developed writing skills, invite as many as possible to respond to a query about what is the same and what is different about their two objects.
5. Children with writing skills are invited to write sentences to compare and contrast their trinkets.
6. Homework assignment: Pick two of your toys at home and be ready to tell or write how they are the same and how they are different.

Evaluation:

Content: Observe students' ability to integrate the prescribed items/topics into their storytelling. Evaluate their use of attributes in defining similarities and differences.

Process: Note ability and willingness to follow directions, accept the luck of the draw and use oral and written language for descriptive purposes.

Extensions:

- Writers may enjoy illustrating their stories with drawings of the three trinkets they chose or a scene from the story.
- Challenge story: draw a trinket from a bag, return one of the three you originally selected. Now write a new story about these three items.

Enrichment:

- Write an analogy that uses at least two of the trinkets. Use the punctuation of analogies—: means "is to" :: means "as"
Examples: Potato masher : potato :: hammer : nail
A block : alligator :: B block : butterfly (or bison)
- Develop an analogy activity by writing the first three parts and leaving the final word blank to be filled in. Share analogy worksheets with one another to complete.

Resources:

For other resources on analogies and critical thinking for lower elementary students, check out these titles.

Beach Is to Fun: A Book of Relationships by Pat Brisson, published by Henry Holt & Co., 2004.

First Time Analogies (grades K-2) by Dianne Draze, published by Prufrock Press, 2005.

Analogies for Beginners (grades 1-3) by Dianne Draze, published by Prufrock Press, 1989.

Lollipop Logic: Critical Thinking Activities (grades K-2) by Bonnie Risby, published by Prufrock Press, 2005.

Copyright © 2009 Think-a-lot Toys. All Rights Reserved.