

Worth A Thousand Words: Using Visual Images to Tell a Story

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This unit combines English Language Arts and Visual Arts by teaching children to create and illustrate their own original short story. There will be a few stories told using a variety of delivery methods. The class will hear stories read aloud to them, view a powerpoint presentation of a story, and watch a short video. The class is racially diverse, so we will focus on multicultural stories like Adelita: A Mexican Cinderella Story, and A Story A Story: An African Tale. We will also hear one of Aesop's Fables and view illustrations from it. The students will participate in whole group discussions, small group discussions, and partner sharing throughout the unit to determine the main characters and plots of different stories. Students will also get peer support to create their stories. Stories will be written by the children using laptops or computers in the computer lab, which will add a technology component to the unit. The Elements of Art will also be reviewed so that students can draw successful illustrations for their stories. The final product will be a storyboard of an original tale accompanied by an illustration. The illustration will help tell a portion of the story without using any text along with it, so that it can stand alone as a work of art.