About this Resource

This resource will allow you to lead your students through a close looking exercise to introduce and practice using descriptive vocabulary and creative thinking in preparation for their WordShop visit.

This approach to looking at art is based on the Art of Seeing Art method created by the Toledo Museum of Art. It is activity-based and will help your students gain confidence thinking creatively and speaking about images.

How to use this Resource:

• Print out the document for yourself.
• Read through the document carefully.
• Print out a copy of the Story Cubes Worksheet for each student.
• Assemble the materials you will need for the activity.

This exercise is meant for use in the classroom. There is no substitute for seeing the real work of art at the Toledo Museum of Art. We are open Tuesday and Wednesday 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Thursday and Friday 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m., and Sunday 12 p.m.–5 p.m. Docent-led WordShop tours are available free of charge.

Visit http://www.toledomuseum.org/visit/tours/school-tours/ to schedule.

Goals:

Use visual literacy strategies to stimulate flexible and original thinking.

Objectives:

• Students will practice close looking.
• Students will collaborate to create a story from images.

Connections to the Common Core State Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.SL.1 Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.SL.2 Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.
**Materials:**  Story cube worksheets, colored pencils, glue sticks, and scissors

**Length:**  15–20 minutes

**Step 1:** Talk to the students about stories. Ask them: What makes a good story? What does every good story need? Tell the students that good stories have characters (people or animals who “star” in the story), settings (places where the story happens), and action (things that characters do).

**Step 2:** Tell the students that they are going to play a game to help them work together to tell a story. The first thing they will need is ideas for the characters, settings and actions. Pass out the story cubes worksheets and ask the students to read the headings and draw a picture that fits in the listed category on each side of the cube.

**Step 3:** Have the students cut out the patterns and fold and paste them together into cubes.

**Step 4:** While the cubes are drying, tell the students that every story has phrases that help to move the action, such as “in the beginning,” “and then,” “but unfortunately,” etc. Have the students work in small groups to come up with more of these phrases that “move the action”. Ask the class to report back on their ideas. You might want to record their ideas on the white board so that they can reference them later.

**Step 5:** Ask the students to work in small groups of 4-5. Explain that the story cubes they created are going to help them work together to write a story. Have the students roll all the cubes in the center of the table and then working in a circle one at a time, have them use the pictures to tell a story. Each cube can only be used once, and every cube must be used by the end of the story. Give the students a few minutes to tell their stories. Encourage them to use the phrases that they brainstormed earlier to make the stories flow.

**Optional Step 6:**
Have the students roll the dice one more time. This time each student should choose 5 cubes to write their own short story about. Have them draw the chosen pictures on the top of their paper and then ask them to write a one-page story that includes all five images.
Cut on solid lines - Fold on dotted lines

Cube Pattern

PLACE

PERSON

ACTION

OBJECT

ANIMAL

THING

Story Cubes Worksheet