

SCHOOLYARD LEARNING

Natural Object Storytime

GRADES: K-6 PRIMARY/JUNIOR/INTERMEDIATE - LANGUAGE, SCIENCE

LEARNING SKILLS AND WORK HABITS: Inquiry, Creativity

MATERIALS: None

ACTIVITY:

1. This activity works as a good follow up to “Natural Object Inquiry” above.
2. Students should have a natural object that they can hold. Alternately, ask students to choose a living tree or plant in the schoolyard. This activity works well individually, or in partner groups.
3. After noticing and wondering about the natural object or living thing, ask students to make up a name for it as if it were an individual person or friend.
4. Pose the question “If your object was a character in a story or song what would they do?” Invite students to make up fictionalized stories, poems or songs that feature their object as a character.
5. Prompt creativity with questions like “What are their likes and dislikes? Do they have hobbies? Friends? What are they afraid of?”

TEACHER PROMPTS: Many students may hesitate at first since this activity is so open-ended. Taking time to pair and share ideas can help these students get inspiration from their peers.

ACTIVITY OPTIONS:

- Kindergarten and Primary students can share their ideas aloud in small groups or with the class. How could we incorporate these stories into dramatic play?
- For Junior or Intermediate students, consider starting a nature journal that can be taken outside during nature inquiry time. Nature journals can include poems, stories, sketches, and songs.
- Encourage students to draw or doodle in their nature journal as you read a story to them outside.

