



# Silly the Seed

## MAKE YOUR OWN BOOK

### OBJECTIVE

To write and illustrate one's own story.

### SKILLS

Write narratives in which they recount a short sequence of events, including details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings, and provide an sense of closure; develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.

### MATERIALS

Plain white paper (8 1/2 x11), stapler, pens, pencils, crayons, markers.

### PROCEDURE

(Optional introduction: write **PLOT**, **CONFLICT**, **CLIMAX**, and **THEME** on the board and then ask students to define each term. If necessary, explain that **PLOT** is simply what happens in the story from beginning to end. **CONFLICT** is the struggle, i.e. the problem or problems the main character or characters face. **CLIMAX** is the point of highest emotion, the turning point, or when the conflict is resolved. **THEME** is the story's main idea. Discuss the four concepts, relating them to a book the students have recently read, for example, Silly the Seed.)

Remind students how Silly helped the worm and the bug in the story and then tell them to imagine other creatures Silly could help, for example, a butterfly, a frog, a mouse, a cat, a lion, a giraffe, an elephant, even an alien, dinosaur, monster, or a creature of their own creation.

Write some animal names on the board and ask students to imagine what types of problems such creatures might have and how Silly could help them. (For example, a butterfly might have trouble breaking out of its cocoon, a frog might need to find water, a mouse might be hiding from a cat or searching for food, a lion could have a thorn in its foot, etc.)

Students then choose any two creatures and invent a story in which Silly helps them.

Remember to ask students how their stories end. Does Silly go to a party with all his new animal friends? Does he go home to his garden to find his flower friends waiting to celebrate his birthday? Does he win the Nobel Peace Prize?

Finally, give students four or five pieces of paper to be folded in half lengthwise, and then stapled along the folded edge (three staples is enough, one at each end and one in the middle) to form a "book. They must count the pages they will be writing and illustrating, plan each page (i.e. what illustration they will draw and what words they will write, and then, using pens, pencils, crayons, markers, etc. they design the cover with Silly's picture and their name as the writer/illustrator, and write/illustrate the story.



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