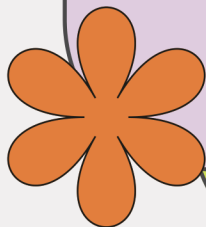




School Visit Ideas

LOOKING FOR MORE THAN
JUST THE TYPICAL AUTHOR
PRESENTATION AND Q&A?

HERE ARE SOME
INTERACTIVE AND CREATIVE
ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES:





List of Activities

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5-15 MINUTES | ALL AGES AND LEVELS



Icebreaker: Scavenger Hunt or Quiz

Activity

THIS ACTIVITY IS PERFECT AS A SHORT ICE-BREAKER OR ENDING ACTIVITY.

STUDENTS WILL COMPETE TO ANSWER QUIZ QUESTIONS ABOUT MESSY ROOTS OR TEAM UP FOR A SCAVENGER HUNT TO FIND SCENES IN THE BOOK. WINNERS CAN GRAB A PRIZE FROM THE AUTHOR'S SWAG BOX!

30+ MINUTES | ALL AGES AND SKILL LEVELS

Once Upon a Time

STUDENTS WILL MAKE A COMIC INSERTING THEMSELVES INTO THEIR FAVORITE FAIRYTALE. THIS ACTIVITY IS MODELED OFF THE CHANGE ON THE MOON FAIRYTALE IN MESSY ROOTS.



Activity

THE AUTHOR WILL GUIDE STUDENTS TO FINISH A 3-4 PANEL COMIC. STUDENTS CAN SHARE IN THE END.

DISCUSSION Q'S:

- WHY THIS IS YOUR FAVORITE FAIRYTALE? IN WHAT WAYS DOES IT RELATE TO YOUR LIFE?
- IF YOU WERE THE MAIN CHARACTER IN THIS FAIRYTALE, WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE ABOUT IT? WHAT WOULD YOU KEEP THE SAME?
- IF YOU HAD TO PUT ANOTHER PERSON IN YOUR LIFE INTO THIS FAIRYTALE, WHO WOULD IT BE AND WHY?
- CRAFT AN ALTERNATE ENDING FOR THIS FAIRYTALE WITH YOU IN IT AND ILLUSTRATE IT.

30+ MINUTES | ALL AGES AND SKILL LEVELS



Unleash The Beast

STUDENTS WILL MAKE A SHORT COMIC ABOUT AN INNER BEAST OR ALTER EGO THEY RELATE TO. THIS ACTIVITY IS MODELED OFF OF THE WHITE RABBIT IN MESSY ROOTS.

Activity

THE AUTHOR WILL GUIDE STUDENTS TO FINISH A 3-4 PANEL COMIC. STUDENTS CAN SHARE IN THE END.

DISCUSSION Q'S:

- WHAT DOES THE BEAST LOOK LIKE? DOES IT HAVE A NAME?
- IN WHAT WAYS ARE YOU SIMILAR OR DIFFERENT TO THIS BEAST?
- WHEN DO YOU FEEL THIS BEAST COMING OUT? DO YOU HOLD IT BACK OR LET IT COME OUT?
- ILLUSTRATE A SCENE IN WHICH YOU AND THE BEAST ARE WORKING TOWARDS SOMETHING TOGETHER.

The "I" in Foodie

STUDENTS WILL MAKE A SHORT COMIC ABOUT THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR FAVORITE FOOD. THIS ACTIVITY IS MODELED OFF THE FOODS AND CULTURES IN MESSY ROOTS.



Activity

THE AUTHOR WILL GUIDE STUDENTS TO FINISH A 3-4 PANEL COMIC. STUDENTS CAN SHARE IN THE END.

DISCUSSION Q'S:

- IS THERE A MEMORY YOU ASSOCIATE WITH THIS FOOD?
- DESCRIBE THIS FOOD TO A CLASSMATE WITHOUT MENTIONING THE INGREDIENTS. E.G. INSTEAD OF "PIZZA IS MADE WITH PEPPERONI", WRITE "THE PIZZA MY UNCLE MAKES ON MY BIRTHDAY IS TOPPED WITH HIS STORIES ABOUT HIS ADVENTURES IN THE TUSCANY COUNTRYSIDE".
- WHAT'S ONE CHANGE YOU WOULD MAKE TO THE RECIPE TO MAKE IT MORE PERSONAL?

30+ MINUTES | ALL AGES AND SKILL LEVELS



Comics Telephone

STUDENTS WILL LEARN ABOUT THE BASICS OF CRAFTING A COMIC BY HAVING THEM “RE-WRITE” A SCENE FROM MESSY ROOTS.

Activity

STUDENTS WILL BE GIVEN A PAGE FROM MESSY ROOTS IN WHICH ALL THE TEXT HAS BEEN REMOVED. THEY WILL REWRITE THE SCENE WITH THEIR OWN DIALOGUE AND NARRATION, ADDING NEW MEANING TO IT.

NEXT, STUDENTS WILL COPY THEIR TEXT TO A BLANK SHEET OF PAPER AND TRADE WITH A CLASSMATE. THEY WILL DRAW A SCENE BASED ON THEIR CLASSMATE'S TEXT. AT THE END, STUDENTS WILL COMPARE THIS NEW COMIC TO THE ORIGINAL PAGE FROM MESSY ROOTS AND DISCUSS THE CRAFT OF DIALOGUE AND ART IN COMICS.

STUDENTS CAN VOLUNTEER TO SHARE IN THE END.

Act It Out!

STUDENTS WILL LEARN HOW TO CRAFT A SCENE BY ACTING OUT A SCENE FROM MESSY ROOTS OR THEIR OWN WRITING.



Activity

THE AUTHOR WILL GUIDE STUDENTS TO ACT OUT A FUN SCENE IN MESSY ROOTS. BY SEEING THE SCENE COME TO LIFE, STUDENTS WILL THEN DISCUSS WHAT MAKES GOOD DIALOGUE, PACING, AND COMPOSITION.

AFTERWARD, STUDENTS WILL IMPROVE A SCENE OF THEIR OWN THAT THEY HAVE PREPARED IN ADVANCE OF THIS WORKSHOP. IN THE END, STUDENTS CAN VOLUNTEER TO ACT IT OUT WITH THEIR CLASSMATES.

30+ MINUTES | ALL SKILL LEVELS | GOOD FOR YOUNGER KIDS



Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

STUDENTS WILL MAKE A COMIC AND CRAFT IT INTO A LONG SCROLL THEY CAN READ LIKE A MEDIEVAL MESSENGER.

Activity

THE AUTHOR WILL GUIDE STUDENTS TO FINISH A 3-4 PANEL COMIC OF ANY TOPIC ON A SHEET OF PAPER.

STUDENTS WILL THEN CUT THE COMIC INTO LONG STRIPS, TAPE THEM AROUND A PENCIL/PEN, AND READ THEM LIKE A MEDIEVAL SCROLL. STUDENTS CAN SHARE IN THE END.

PREVIEW AN EXAMPLE OF THIS WORKSHOP I GAVE FOR NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO (NPR) AS PART OF THEIR “RESILIENT WOMEN IN THE PANDEMIC” SERIES:

[HTTPS://WWW.LAURAGAO.COM/WORKSHOP](https://www.lauragao.com/workshop)

30+ MINUTES | ALL SKILL LEVELS | GOOD FOR YOUNGER KIDS

Dragon Boat Comics



STUDENTS WILL MAKE A COMIC ABOUT THE DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL ON A DRAGON CUT-OUT. WORKSHOP CAN BE FIT TO ANY HOLIDAY.

Activity

THE AUTHOR WILL GUIDE STUDENTS TO DRAW A DRAGON ON A SHEET OF PAPER. STUDENTS WILL THEN DRAW A 3-4 PANEL COMIC ABOUT THEIR FAVORITE MEMORY DURING THE DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL.

AFTERWARD, STUDENTS WILL CUT OUT THE DRAGON AND TAPE IT ONTO PENS/PENCILS TO SIMULATE IT FLOATING ON WATER OR DOING A DRAGON DANCE.

PREVIEW AN EXAMPLE OF THIS WORKSHOP I GAVE FOR THE MUSEUM OF CHINESE IN AMERICA:

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/DRAGON-BOAT-COMIC](https://bit.ly/dragon-boat-comic)



Nǐ hǎo, Goodbye!

STUDENTS WILL MAKE A COMIC ABOUT THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH DIFFERENT LANGUAGES.

Activity

LIKE IN MESSY ROOTS, STUDENTS COMMUNICATE IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES EVERY DAY. BEYOND FORMAL LANGUAGES, STUDENTS CAN ALSO CONSIDER INSIDE JOKES THEY HAVE WITH FRIENDS, JARGON THEY USE FOR SPECIAL ACTIVITIES, OR THE DIFFERENT WAYS THEY MIGHT SPEAK AT SCHOOL VS. AT HOME.

DISCUSSION Q'S:

- WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT “LANGUAGES” YOU USE? IN WHAT WAYS ARE THEY DIFFERENT OR SIMILAR?
- WHAT IS YOUR CONNECTION TO THESE DIFFERENT “LANGUAGES”?
- DRAW A TIME IN WHICH THESE “LANGUAGES” HELPED OR HINDERED YOU. HOW DID YOU REACT?

Say My Name, Say My Name

STUDENTS WILL MAKE A COMIC ABOUT THE STORIES BEHIND THEIR NAMES. THIS ACTIVITY IS MODELED AFTER THE STORY OF LAURA'S CHINESE NAME IN MESSY ROOTS.



Activity

THE AUTHOR WILL GUIDE STUDENTS TO DRAW A 3-4 PANEL COMIC. STUDENTS CAN ALSO COME UP WITH THEIR OWN MEANINGS OR USE A DIFFERENT NAME. IN THE END, STUDENTS CAN SHARE THEIR COMIC.

DISCUSSION Q'S:

- WHAT'S THE STORY/MEANING BEHIND YOUR NAME?
- DO YOU RELATE TO IT? WHY OR WHY NOT?
- FOR STUDENTS THAT DO RELATE TO IT, DRAW A TIME IN WHICH YOU WERE PROUD OF YOUR NAME.
- OTHERWISE, DRAW A NEW STORY/MEANING YOU WANT TO ASCRIBE TO THIS NAME.

30+ MINUTES | ADVANCED LEVELS

Comic Montages

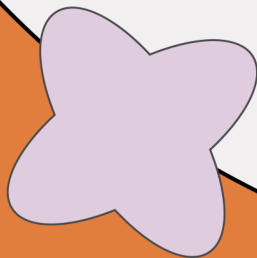
Activity

THIS IS AN **ADVANCED** WORKSHOP FOR STUDENTS ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH DRAWING.

STUDENTS WILL CREATE A COMICS MONTAGE OF 3-4 SCENES FROM THEIR LIFE.

PREVIEW AN EXAMPLE OF THIS WORKSHOP I GAVE FOR ADOBE LIVE'S PRIDE MONTH EVENT:

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/COMIC-MONTAGES](https://bit.ly/comic-montages)



30+ MINUTES | ADVANCED LEVELS

No Panels Allowed!

Activity

THIS IS AN **ADVANCED** WORKSHOP FOR STUDENTS ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH COMICS.

STUDENTS WILL CREATE A SHORT COMIC USING UNCONVENTIONAL TECHNIQUES TO THINK OUTSIDE OF THE BOX OF WHAT A “PANEL” CAN BE.

PREVIEW AN EXAMPLE OF THIS WORKSHOP I GAVE FOR THE SEQUENTIAL ARTS WORKSHOP (SAW):

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/NO-PANELS-ALLOWED](https://bit.ly/no-panels-allowed)

