

13 Lesson Plan Ideas

For all ages... Using

Story Spinner™



- 1. ORAL STORY CIRCLE:** Start a story using a STARTER and SETTING. Pass the Spinner clockwise. Each participant dials up a WORD to be used until all have a turn. With young ones, tell them WORD to use. Excellent and amusing for Pre-K thru Adult Ed. Superb ice-breaker for Homeschoolers meeting for first time.
- 2. DRAWING:** Spin one SETTING and 6 WORDS. Draw or paint a picture incorporating all 7 items. For all ages!
- 3. GROUP STORY:** Write STARTER on blackboard. Get a SETTING. Each class member adds sentence using one WORD while you write on board. Afterwards read story aloud in unison. Perfect for ESL and up to 3rd grade.
- 4. IMPROV ACTING:** Give SETTING and STARTER to one actor who begins. Next actor gets a WORD to use to interrupt and interact with first actor. Keep adding actors and WORDS until whole class is acting. Keep passing Spinner around to add new WORDS all the time. Very fun and very funny for 4th grade on up.
- 5. POETRY CHAPBOOK:** Using one Spinner RECIPE, each class member writes a poem. Assemble into a chapbook and print and bind. Put a copy in the school library and also the local free library. For 3rd grade and up.
- 6. THEMED STORY COLLECTION:** Same as chapbook but write short stories with one RECIPE. When stories are done, swap and edit them to teach a new skill set. Ask library if you can do a live reading. 3rd grade up.
- 7. BOOK OF SHORT STORIES:** Each student uses different Spinner RECIPE to generate a story. Print and bind into book. Ask a senior center if you can come do a reading. Great community relations project for grades 3 and up.
- 8. CHARADES:** Divide in 2 teams. Silently act out WORDS for team. Keep score. Edutainment for grades 1 on.
- 9. HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES TIE IN:** In lieu of SETTINGS wheel, use location/era currently being studied. Add 4 WORDS to make it extra challenging and maybe introduce anachronisms! Younger ones can draw instead.
- 10. GENRE WRITING:** After studying genres of literature, use Spinner RECIPE to write in that genre. 6th and up.
- 11. READING/WRITING ROLE MODELS:** Pair up students in entire school – one older with one younger. Teachers provide names and one interest for each young one. Every older kid writes story with Spinner using younger kid as main character. Then have picnic where older reads to younger and presents copy of story to keep. Great school-system morale builder for Pre-K thru 12. And for college classes to visit elementary schools.
- 12. WARM UPS:** If you teach a creative writing class, use RECIPES as warm ups to keep up students' momentum.
- 13. START YOUR OWN CREATIVE WRITING GROUP:** At a local bookstore/library organize an event for those interested in creative writing. To start, do a 10-minute Story Spinner exercise. All read story aloud. Do another exercise and read again. You'll be amazed how entertaining your fellow writers are... and how fast time flies! No critiquing allowed. Simply have person to reader's right mention one memorable gem from the piece – that's best!

www.storystick.com

phone: 610-446-7441 email: Bonnie@BonnieNeubauer.com TO ORDER:

Send check or money order for \$9.99 plus \$1.00 s/h per Story Spinner to: PO Box 810 Ardmore, PA 19003

Pay by credit card using PayPal at www.PayPal.com: PayPal account NeuBon@comcast.net