



# DIY STORY CUBES

Age Group  
**5-11 yrs**

**THE BIG IDEA:** Children will craft verbal or written stories that include setting, characters, and plot.

## HERE IS WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

- Paper
- Scissors
- Writing tools: Pens, Pencils, Markers, etc.
- Tape or Glue

## HOW TO DO IT!

STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3
<p><b>Imagine</b> six (6) ideas each for a potential character, setting, and plot for a story. Encourage children to be creative and list their wildest ideas.</p> <p><b>Examine</b> these basic components of a story. What is the setting and why is it important? What kinds of characters do stories have? What makes a plot interesting? <b>Make connections</b> to stories your child may have heard or read.</p> <p><b>IN STEP 1 YOUR CHILD IS PRACTICING...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Personal Connection</li> <li>- Raising Questions</li> <li>- Intro to vocabulary</li> <li>- Story Structure</li> </ul>	<p><b>Write</b> or draw the ideas on small pieces of paper and cut them out. If writing the plot, encourage children to provide a concise summary.</p> <p><b>Facilitate conversation</b> about their choices. Why did you choose these characters? What excites you most about these plots? How will these settings make each story different?</p> <p><b>IN STEP 2 YOUR CHILD IS PRACTICING...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Communication</li> <li>- Motor Skills</li> <li>- Personal Connection</li> <li>- Story Structure</li> </ul>	<p><b>Print</b> and cut three (3) cube templates or <b>draw</b> them and cut them out. Fold each and secure the ends with tape or glue, so that you have 3 cubes. <b>Tape</b> or glue your 6 characters on one cube, one character per side. Repeat with the setting, and then the plot.</p> <p><b>Play!</b> Encourage children to roll each cube, and write or tell a story using the character, plot, and setting!</p> <p><b>IN STEP 3 YOUR CHILD IS PRACTICING...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Motor Skills</li> <li>- Reading &amp; Writing</li> <li>- Story Structure</li> <li>- Self Expression</li> </ul>

## TIPS & TRICKS

- For an extension, you can add more cubes! Some ideas for additional cubes include protagonists, antagonists, transportation, or even multiple settings, characters, or plots. Have a preliterate one? Make the cubes yourself, and let the little ones roll the cubes and then verbally craft their stories.
- You can download cube templates or create your own by drawing the templates on paper. Then you can write or draw on the templates before cutting and assembling the cube.
- To continue the discussion of character, setting, and plot, use these terms when reading or listening to stories.
- Stuff your story cubes with the paper scraps to make them more durable. Have fun decorating your story cube. Be creative!



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## WHAT IT COULD LOOK LIKE:



### Setting Cube with Drawings:

You can choose to draw and color the elements of your cube, or write them out



### Additional Cube Ideas:

You can add more cubes to make your story more complex.

## TEKS:

K - ELAR: §110.2 (K.11A) • 1st - ELAR: §110.3 (1.12A) • 2nd - ELAR: §110.4 (4.12A) • 3rd - ELAR: §110.5 (3.12A)  
• 4th - ELAR: §110.6 (4.12A) • 5th - ELAR: §110.7 (5.12A)

