



educationTM

Middle School Activity Starters

ELA Activities

Make a Mechanical Toy Animal

Need a pet that is easy to take care of and can keep you company? Try building a mechanical animal. Design and build an animal that you can play with. What type of animal have you always wanted? What type would be the most fun? Try to build something unexpected that you can share with your friends. Then, create a way to market your animal by creating a persuasive name and slogan that will make all your friends want one.

<https://education.lego.com/en-us/lessons/maker-middleschool/make-a-mechanical-toy-animal>

Illustrating Key Points

After reading an informational text, have your child identify a key event or detail to bring to life. Using bricks and other materials, create a scene that illustrates this key piece of the reading through showing it. Be sure to include all the important details that you can create to really make this important point stand out.

Taking sides

From a reading, consider the different characters' points of view. Choose a text where the author develops and contrasts the points of view of different characters. Think about how each character illustrates their own ideas in different ways. How can you bring this to life through building two scenes using bricks and other materials? Create two different scenes that depict the same moment in the reading. One scene should be from one of the character's point of view, while the other scene should show the point of view of a different character. Compare to the two scenes to find the similarities and differences in how two people view the same moment from the reading.

Creating a Strong Argument

Being in an argument is never fun. However, sometimes you are debating your ideas or point of view in order to convince someone or share a new way to look at things. Think about how a visual can make an argument stronger. What can you build using bricks and other materials to support an argument you are making? Think about how to visually represent your idea or point of view through building an example to help others see it.



Creating a story

Who is your favorite character in a book you are reading or have read? Can you create a new story about your favorite character? Write several scenarios on paper and put them in a container. Items could include: can fly, is transformed into an animal, is locked in a dungeon, works at a fast food restaurant, or shrinks to the size of a quarter. Select one at random from the container. Now, think about your favorite book and your favorite character. Create a new adventure for your character based on the scenario you picked. How will your character act in this new circumstance? Illustrate a scene to show the story using bricks and other materials to build out the scene.

Figurative Language

Have your child find examples in a book where a phrase has a different meaning from a dictionary definition. Build a model of what the idiom, it will be a piece of cake, would look like in real life! Use bricks and other materials to build your model of the language to see if it makes sense in the story. Then have your child see if they can find and build examples of other types of figurative language.

