

# Kindergarten - Grade 2 Activity Starters Storytelling and Reading

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#### Build a Model and a Story

Have your child create a model that moves using bricks and other materials. What will the model show? How will it move? Maybe they make a monster and tell a story about how it is tamed by a little girl or build the coolest vehicle ever that you can drive, fly, and becomes a submarine. The model can be anything your child can imagine!

#### **My Characters**

Create a way to make choices – could be cards, dice, spinner, etc. Have your child think of fun characters for each possible choice – loud waitress, whistling doctor, singing bus driver, dancing old man, bubble-blowing girl, and so forth. Tell a story using the chosen character(s). What will their character do? Have them use bricks and other materials to create a scene from their story.

## **My Setting**

Create a way to make choices – could be cards, dice, spinner, etc. Have your child think of fun places to have a story, for each possible choice – the park, a theme park, a beach, a snow-covered mountain, and so forth. Tell a story that takes place in the chosen setting. What will happen in that setting? What can the characters do? Have them use bricks and other materials to create a scene from the story.

# My Mood

Create a way to make choices – could be cards, dice, spinner, etc. Have your child think about moods for each possible choice – sad, happy, romantic, angry, lonely, surprised, excited, anxious, cheerful, enthusiastic, generous, ecstatic, joyful, thankful, and so forth. Tell a story about a character that shows that mood. How will your character act because of the mood chosen? What is the character doing that led to that mood? Use bricks and other materials to create a scene from their story.

# **My First Story**

Based on the random choices from My Characters (at least 2 characters), My Setting (at least 1 setting), and My Mood (at least 2 moods), have your child create a story to tell or write the story and draw or build models to help bring the story to life. What will happen in their story?

## **Picture This**

Have your child find pictures at home or on the internet to use to create a story. Perhaps the picture is of a dog catching a ball. Can they make a story about the dog? Where it is? Where does it go? What does it do? Who is with the dog? Who does it meet? When does the story take place? Discuss the image with your child and then create a story for it using words or building the story out of bricks and other materials.

#### **Great Experiences**

Great experiences need great stories in order to share with others. Have your child retell an experience through building a representation of it using bricks and other materials. Encourage your child to organized the story and use descriptive words to keep the audience interested.

#### Magic Fish and Golden Crystals

Pretend you and your child have just found some treasure – a magic fish and some golden crystals. What do the magic fish and golden crystals do? How will you use them? Have your child create a story about finding the treasure. Build the story using bricks and other materials to bring the experience to life.

## **Choose Your Ending**

Read a story with your child and then challenge your child to create a new ending. Perhaps a princess breaks her foot and it is in a cast when the prince comes by. What if the child does not fall asleep in the bears house. Encourage your child to think of several different ideas to change the story and all the fun things that could happen as a result. Have your child build the story out of bricks and other materials to show the new end of the story.

# **My Personal Park**

Ask your child to think about a park and what is fun to do at the park. Challenge your child to build one, what would be in it? Would there be a lake with boats to rent? Would there be jogging trails? Would there be a swimming pool? A teeter-totter? Swings and slides? Build a model of your park or draw a picture of one. Then, take your friends and go there for the day in a story you create.

## Fun in Space

Your class has been chosen to go to outer space. Determine who will have what roles and jobs. What will be your food? What will you see? Do you meet aliens? Where will you go? Will you come back to Earth? How long will you be gone? Write a story about your class adventure. Don't leave anyone behind. What happens to your teacher along the way? Then, build models or draw pictures to illustrate your ideas.

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