



READY-TO-USE ACTIVITY CARD 01

STORY INTO ART

Listen. Imagine. Create.

Turn a meaningful story moment into an original visual response.

For libraries, schools, homeschool groups, and community programs

READ

Read or listen

CREATE

Make something original

REFLECT

Notice and explain

SHARE

Offer an audience

AT A GLANCE

AGES
6–17

TIME
45–60 min

FORMAT
Individual + group sharing

SETTING
Flexible partner program

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Children read or listen to a selected story, notice the image, character, place, feeling, or moment that stayed with them, and create an original artwork inspired by their own interpretation. They title the artwork, reflect on a creative choice, and may share it with others.

LEARNING GOALS

- Listen to or read a story attentively and identify a meaningful detail.
- Interpret a story through original visual choices rather than copying.
- Use color, line, shape, texture, or composition to communicate an idea.
- Explain a connection between the story and the artwork.
- Practice respectful listening and voluntary sharing.

MATERIALS

Required

- A suitable story in print, digital, or authorized audio format
- Drawing paper; pencils and erasers
- Crayons, colored pencils, or markers

Optional

- Paint, brushes, water cups, and table covers
- Collage paper, glue sticks, or child-safe scissors
- Small slips for artwork titles and reflections

FACILITATOR PREPARATION

- Select and preview a story that offers vivid images, characters, places, emotions, or meaningful moments.
- Plan a reading or listening segment of about 8–12 minutes. Use your own authorized copy or suitable 365 for Kids content.
- Arrange materials before children arrive and protect tables when needed.
- Choose the sharing format: partner, small group, gallery walk, or full group.
- Prepare a quiet or nonverbal option and any age or accessibility adaptations.
- Review your organization's child-safety, media, privacy, and display policies.

SUGGESTED SESSION MAP

WELCOME
3–5 min

READ
8–12 min

CREATE
20–25 min

REFLECT
5–8 min

SHARE
5–8 min

Adapt the timing to your group. The activity may be shortened, extended, or repeated with a different story.

FACILITATOR NOTES

READ

CREATE

REFLECT

SHARE

STEP-BY-STEP ACTIVITY

1 WELCOME 3–5 min	Set the Tone Explain that the same story can create different pictures in different minds. There is no single correct image and no finished example to copy. Facilitator prompt: “Listen for the part that creates the clearest picture in your mind.”
2 READ 8–12 min	Enter the Story Read or play the selected story. Pause only when a brief question will help children notice a meaningful detail. After the story, allow a quiet moment before discussion. Facilitator prompt: “What stayed with you—a person, place, object, feeling, or moment?” Need a story? Explore the 365 for Kids Audio & Video Library .
3 CREATE 20–25 min	Make It Your Own Invite each child to choose one story element and create an original artwork. Encourage independent choices about subject, viewpoint, color, line, shape, texture, and materials. Ask children to add a title when finished. Adults may assist with materials, but the artistic decisions and artwork should remain the child's own. Facilitator prompt: “What would you like the viewer to notice first?”
4 REFLECT 5–8 min	Notice and Explain Ask children to complete one or both sentence starters: “My artwork shows...” and “I chose this moment because...”. Younger children may dictate. Older children may write a short artist note. Facilitator prompt: “Which creative choice helps show the meaning or feeling of your scene?”
5 SHARE 5–8 min	Give the Idea an Audience Offer a voluntary sharing option: partner exchange, small group, gallery walk, family display, or full-group presentation. Invite listeners to make one specific, respectful observation. Children may always choose to pass. Facilitator prompt: “What is one detail you noticed or appreciated?”

DISCUSSION & REFLECTION

ADAPT & INCLUDE

- Which moment made the strongest picture in your mind?
- What did you imagine that the story did not describe directly?
- How does your artwork show a feeling, action, or important idea?
- Did your idea change while you were creating? How?
- What might happen just before or just after this scene?
- What would you like a viewer to notice or feel?

Ages 6–9: Use a shorter story, limit material choices, and invite an oral title or one-sentence explanation.

Ages 10–13: Encourage choices about viewpoint, setting, action, mood, and a two-sentence artist note.

Ages 14–17: Invite exploration of symbolism, perspective, theme, visual metaphor, or a 3–5 sentence artist statement.

Additional options: Allow pair planning, audio support, extra processing time, adaptive tools, a nonverbal share, or a private reflection.

30-minute version: Welcome 3 min; READ 7 min; CREATE 14 min; REFLECT 3 min; SHARE 3 min.

FACILITATOR TIPS

Avoid showing a finished model that children may feel expected to copy. Praise thought, effort, and individual choices rather than artistic “talent.” Ask open questions and allow multiple interpretations.

SAFETY, PRIVACY & ORIGINALITY

Use age-appropriate, non-toxic materials and supervise tools and water. Sharing is voluntary. Do not photograph, record, publish, display online, or submit a child's name, image, voice, or work without required authorization. Do not ask children to include private information. Artwork should be original—do not trace or copy published illustrations or online images.

OPTIONAL 365 FOR KIDS CONNECTION

This activity is complete on its own. Participation in a 365 for Kids annual program is entirely optional and is not required to use this Activity Card.

For the 2026 program, a parent or guardian may separately review the current requirements and submit one qualifying original handmade artwork by an eligible child or teen to the [Annual Children's Stories & Art Exhibition](#). Facilitators should not collect or submit a child's work unless all required parent/guardian and organizational permissions are in place. Always review the current eligibility, consent, privacy, originality, technical, deadline, and capacity requirements on the official pages.

RESOURCES: [Story Collections](#) | [Learning Model](#) | [Activity Guides](#)
[Annual Exhibition](#) | [Full Participation Rules](#)



STORIES



EXHIBITION