
A Picture's Worth a Thousand Words

Students love creative writing opportunities that let them exercise their imaginations. In this activity, students are given a picture or video clip that is the basis for a story they write.

Objectives:

Students will:

- View a picture or video clip on the handheld
- Write a creative story about the picture using handhelds
- Share their stories with others

Materials required:

- Handhelds with the following software loaded:
 - Word processing software (see page 89 for options)
 - Photo or video software (see page 90 for options)
 - Picture and video story starters from the Handheld Toolkit
- Assessment rubric from the Handheld Toolkit
- Keyboards (optional)
- LCD projector and handheld presentation peripheral (optional)



Activity directions:

1. Review with students the steps in the writing process if necessary. (See pages 61-62.)
2. Tell students that they are going to be doing creative writing. In creative writing, the goal is to tell an interesting story with as many rich, compelling details as possible to engage the reader. Beam students the rubric for this assignment and review it with them.
3. To start students with their writing, beam each of them a picture or video clip from the story starter collections in the Handheld Toolkit. Prompt students to look at the pictures closely and think about:
 - What is happening in the picture?
 - Where might this be?
 - What are the people in the picture saying or thinking?
 - What might have happened before this picture was taken?
 - What might happen next?



These are just a couple of the many picture story starters available in the Handheld Toolkit.

4. Have students write their stories. Then have them revise and edit using the writing process tools in the Handheld Toolkit.
5. Have students beam their revised work to another student for peer evaluation using the rubric and checklists.
7. Have students turn in their final work. Optionally, you might have students show their pictures to the class using an LCD projector and read their stories aloud.

Extension ideas:

Have students use digital cameras to take their own pictures to be used as story starters. Encourage students to think about what makes a compelling picture that might inspire someone to write an interesting story. After they've taken their pictures and each has chosen a favorite, have each student beam his or her favorite to another student to repeat the writing activity. After each student has finished writing, have each beam the story to the person who originally took the picture.



Assessment:



Assess students' work using a rubric. Beam this rubric to students when the assignment is made.

The palmOne Zire 72 handheld includes a built-in digital camera that can be used for taking pictures and creating photo journals.

	2 – Exceeded requirements	1 – Met requirements	0 – Did not meet requirements
Creativity	Story was very creative and engaging. Story directly related to subject matter in the picture.	Story was somewhat creative and engaging. Story somewhat related to subject matter in the picture.	Story was not creative or engaging. Story did not relate to subject matter in the picture.
Writing style and mechanics	Writing had an interesting and appropriate style. Writing had minimal spelling, grammar, and mechanics errors.	Writing had a somewhat interesting and appropriate style. Writing had some spelling, grammar, and mechanics errors.	Writing did not have an interesting or appropriate style. Writing had many spelling, grammar, and mechanics errors.
Use of technology	Handhelds were used effectively for writing. File was named appropriately and student's name was on the assignment.	Handhelds were used somewhat effectively for writing. File was named appropriately and student's name was on the assignment.	Handhelds were not used effectively for writing. File was not named appropriately and student's name was not on the assignment.