

Narrative Writing with Rory's Story Cubes

By Jennifer Salen, 6th grade teacher at Locke Elementary

Summary: Students practice writing narrative stories in the school garden using a dice game called Rory's Story Cubes.

Objectives: In the school garden, students will (1) collaborate in groups, (2) think creatively, and (3) write their own narrative story.

Grades: 4-7

Time needed: 45-60 minutes

Standards met:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

Background/Preparation information: Rory's Story Cubes are a set of nine dice with a picture/graphic on each face. The concept is simple. Roll the dice. Tell a story. One set of dice can be purchased on Amazon.com for about \$8 per set, and you will probably need 4-5 sets for an entire class. Be sure to check your local book store or toy store too!

Materials Needed:

- Several sets of Rory's Story Cubes (9 dice in set) – 1 set per group of 5-6 students
- Story Cube graphic organizer – 1 per student
- Pencils
- Clipboards (for writing on)

Procedure:

- 1.) In the garden groups of students will find a quiet place that they can sit in a circle facing each other. Each group will receive one set of nine dice.
- 2.) In their small groups, the first student starts by rolling one die. Then he/she begins telling a story. Then the next student rolls a die and adds to the story, until all nine dice have been rolled and the student with the final one ends the story.
- 3.) After a couple rounds, it is time for each student to *write* their own story. The group will roll all nine dice at once. On the student page, there are nine empty boxes. In these boxes, students will draw the picture of all nine dice (this helps preserve the dice in case we need to move inside or run out of time). From those nine images, students are to create and write their own individual story. Once stories are complete students change groups and share their stories with other students.

Assessment:

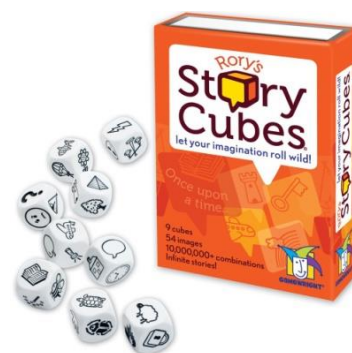
- 4.) Collect student pages for a participation grade.

Extension Options:

- 5.) Inside or outside (and before collecting student's papers), have students volunteer themselves or nominate each other to read their stories to the entire class.
- 6.) Give students a template of a paper die. On the template, students are to create their own Story Cube based on their observations and experiences inside the garden.



Teachers practiced using Rory's Story Cubes at the Openlands Writing in the School Garden Series



Writing with Story Cubes

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

Directions:

1. Roll all 9 Story Cubes. Draw the illustration from each cube on the squares below.
2. Write a story based on all 9 story cubes. You can choose the order of the cubes for your story.
3. Begin your story with a story starter.
4. Use descriptive details.
5. Add a title to your story.

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Possible Story Starters:

Once upon a time Back in the old days..... Back when I was
Do you remember when The craziest thing happened Have you ever

TITLE: _____
