



Stories Are for Sharing

Grades 3-5

Storytelling brings people together, which is so important in these challenging times. Using this package, your child will have lots of fun sharing a story in two different ways. These activities offer lots of ideas to guide and inspire your young storyteller!

Although some activities include optional links, all activities can be completed without an electronic device. Students will need a pencil, some paper, household items, and a lot of imagination! Note that the options marked with a star (*) may be more accessible for students who are learning English as an additional language.

Why Do We Share Stories?

People have always shared stories. Even before we had written words, some people told stories using pictures. People from many cultures have shared their stories aloud for thousands of years. Now, many stories are also written down or recorded in other ways, such as with videos, podcasts, movies, or shows.

Although there are many ways to share stories, the purpose is always the same. We tell stories to teach, share information and entertain others. Most importantly, telling stories brings people together.

Did You Know?

Indigenous people have shared their ancestor's stories aloud for many generations. Many of these stories teach young people about survival and their family's history, values and culture. These stories connect people and help build relationships.

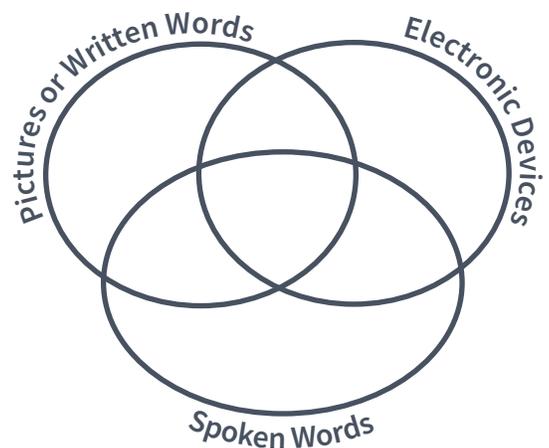
WARM-UP!

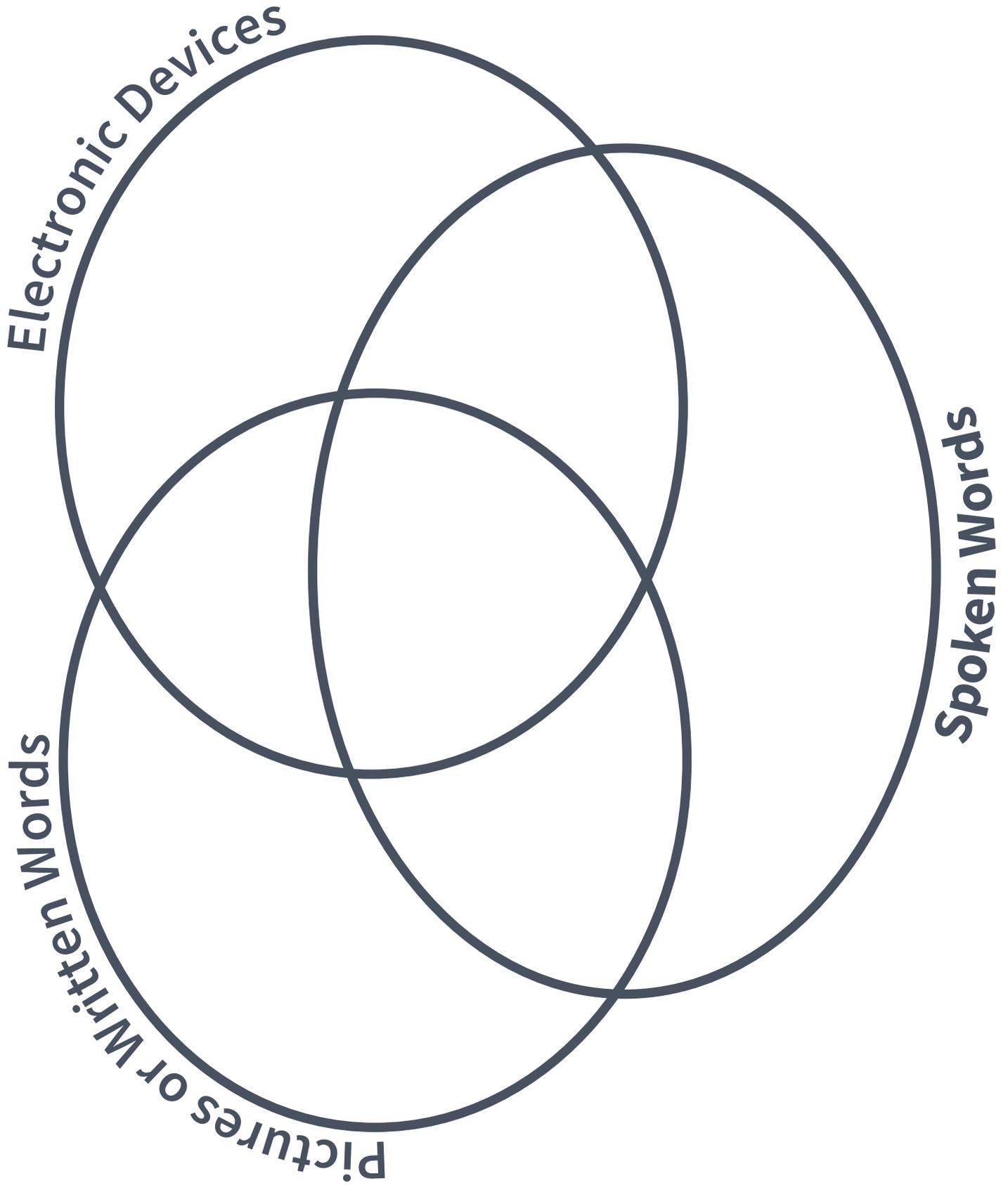
How Are Stories Shared with You?

Stories can be shared in many different ways. Make a list of the ways stories are shared with you. Here's a hint! Think about ways that stories are told:

- with pictures or written words (like in a book).
- with spoken words (like friends sitting in a circle and sharing stories about their day).
- with ways that use electronic devices (like a news story on the radio).

When you have made your list, create a Venn diagram. You can print the one on the next page or draw your own. Some of your ideas may belong in more than one circle. That's okay! Put those ideas in the spaces where the circles overlap.





CHALLENGE!

Become a Great Storyteller

Do you accept this challenge? Great! Here are the steps:

1. Choose or create a story.
2. Get to know the story well. Who are the characters? Where does the story happen? What are the main actions in the story?
3. Decide on **at least two different** ways to tell the story.
4. Think about how you can make your presentations interesting for your audience.
5. Practice presenting your story in both ways.
6. Share your work!

There are lots of ideas to help you here and on the next pages. Have fun and be creative!



Choosing a Story

You can find stories everywhere. Here are some ideas to get you thinking!

- Tell a story about something that has happened to you.*
- Tell a story that you have heard around a campfire or the dinner table.
- Ask a family member or friend to tell you a story about something interesting that happened to them.
- Tell your favourite bedtime story.
- Learn a new story. [Aaron Sheppard's Gifts of Story](#) is a free website with lots of great stories.
- Tell a traditional First Nation story. Watch some [videos of Mi'kmaq legends](#) from the National Film Board of Canada.
- Tell a myth or tale.
- Tell a story from a poem or a song.
- Create your own story in any style—funny, scary, or mysterious. It's up to you!
- Pretend that you have a very interesting job and tell a story about your work. For example, you could be:
 - ◆ a weather reporter discussing a record snowfall, earthquake or heatwave.
 - ◆ a sports reporter discussing a nail-biting hockey or lacrosse game.
 - ◆ a zoologist describing a bear waking up from its winter's sleep.
 - ◆ a scientist investigating the best way to kill germs on surfaces.
- Create a story about something you have observed. Gather the information, make a chart, analyse your data, and describe what you found.



Deciding How to Tell the Story

Remember, you need to pick **two ways** to tell the story. Anything is possible, but here are some ideas.

- Tell the story using only your voice with lots of expression.*
- Tell the story in another language, such as French, Wolastoqey, Mi'kmaq, or your native language.*
- Write or draw the story on paper.
- Act out your story.
- Tell your story with a dance like many Indigenous Peoples do.
Watch a YouTube [video of Powwow dancers](#) from First Nations in Canada.
- Perform the story using puppets. You could make your own puppets or use an app, such as Chatterpix Kids ([Android](#) or [iPad](#)) or Puppet Pals ([Android](#) or [iPad](#)). Be sure to get an adult to help if you are downloading an app.
- Tell the story as if you are reporting on your work. For example, you could be a reporter, zoologist or scientist.
- Tell the story with stop motion animation using building bricks, such as Lego, or modelling clay. [Click here](#) to view a YouTube video that shows you how.



Making Your Story Interesting

A storyteller needs to think about how to make a story interesting for the audience. Here are some ways you can bring your story to life.

- Paint, draw or build a set for your story.
- If you are illustrating a story, draw your characters with emotions. You may want to check out these [video lessons](#) from a real author and illustrator.
- Wear a costume or make-up.
- Use your face, voice, and body to help the audience see and hear what is happening in your story.
- Make props from things around your house.
- Add sound effects using household items.
- Find the perfect music or song to play in the background to set the tone for your story.
- Make your own musical instruments to play as you tell the story. [Click here](#) for some ideas from the Storytime Songs website.



Sharing Your Story

Stories should be shared with an audience. Here are some ways you can share your work.

- Perform the story for a live audience at home.*
- Share your spoken story outdoors, for example, around a campfire, on your backyard swing, or sitting in a circle with your family.
- Record your spoken story or news report for a friend or family member to hear.
- Make a video recording of your story or news report for a friend or family member to watch.
- Share your written story with a family member.
- Share your story with your classmates through Skype or Facetime.

Ask your audience what they liked about your story and how you could make it even better!