

Topics

Comprehension, Critical Thinking, Invention

Materials

- ✓ Brown paper grocery bag, large
- ✓ String, yarn, or twine
- ✓ Hole punch
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Tape
- ✓ Decorative Materials (markers, glue, glitter, crayons, etc.)

Learning Standards

CCSS ELA/Literacy: Key Ideas & Details

[RL.K.2](#)

[RL.K.3](#)

[RL.1.2](#)

[RL.1.3](#)

Character Clothes

A costume that shows what a book character is like inside and out



Students create a costume out of paper grocery bags that reveals their level of comprehension of characters in stories they are reading.

Assembly

1. Open the brown paper bag so that it sits squarely on the table in front of you.
2. Cut out both side panels, leaving the front, bottom and back attached.
3. Cut the front panel from the bottom and back along the seam.
4. Tape the bottom panel up to the back to form a pocket.
5. Place the front panel on top of the back piece (turn the front panel so that the blank inside of the bag is forward).
6. Cut a “V” in the center (if using a grocery bag with handles, the “V” cut should remove this piece).
7. Round cut where the arms would appear on a shirt or vest (see picture above).
8. You can add decorative cuts to add more shape and definition.
9. Punch holes across the top where the shoulders would be.
10. Lace the front and back panels together using string.
11. Use the front of the vest to display key details about the character that are obvious to the reader.
12. Use the inside pocket and panel to display details that are hidden about the character but are revealed through careful reading and/or comprehension of pivotal events in the story.
13. Present your character clothes to others.

The Content Behind the Activity

Book reports have long been a component of the Language Arts experience. Adding in an arts & crafts component allows students to critically evaluate the characters in stories they read. The students make choices about what is important as well as what is underlying the story being told by words to discover the feelings of the character. By putting all this thinking into a final project, the students go beyond the story to understand and make connections between the written word and self.

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