

Story
 Story
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 INTRO BUILD **APPLY**

Summary

Story Spin is a culminating activity that can be used with any Speak Agent lesson. It engages students in team creation and editing of a story around authentic classroom content. Students each take a turn creating a sentence that advances the story line and uses unit vocabulary.

Learning Goals

- The benefit of this activity is that students learn to **apply** key concepts through language in varied contexts and varied word forms.
- They can also write collaboratively and receive immediate feedback on writing from peers.
- Secondly, *Story Spin* develops knowledge of common transition words.



Use with a projector or interactive whiteboard.



Use this activity with the whole class.



Requires teacher modeling and moderation.

How to Use Story Spin



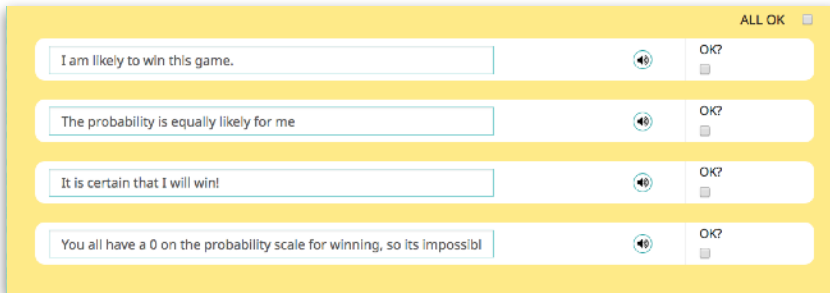
Whole Class Story Creation

Story Spin randomly selects a student to be the writer. (You can also choose/skip a student.) Each student gets a turn! For emerging writers, let them vocalize their thoughts and type for them. Have them come up to your computer and pick the keywords to insert at the right points in the sentence. Gradually have them take over more of the typing until the point they are able to take the lead with your support.



Peer Editing (Teacher-Moderated)

After they finish drafting, students edit their collective work and learn from one another's mistakes. The author of each sentence is hidden so that no one is embarrassed! (Speak Agent's digital portfolio tracks who wrote what.) You can have students read the sentences aloud or play the text-to-speech audio.



Peer editing step

Original Sentence	Corrected Sentence
The Moon could be shape like a crescent.	The Moon could be shaped like a crescent.
moon phases are when some of the Moon is bright and some of the Moon is dark	Moon phases are when some of the Moon is bright and some of the Moon is dark.
stars are used to make constellations	Stars are used to make constellations.

Digital portfolio view

Small Group Activity

Alternatively, you can divide your class into smaller groups (four is a good size) who cluster around a computer to create and edit short stories in quick succession. Then you can do a "gallery walk" and have students share their best with the class, if time allows. Only try this once your students are experienced with *Story Spin* and are able to compose and type independently.

Key Learning Strategies



Collaborative Writing	Peers work together to plan, draft, and revise compositions, improving writing quality.
Feedback on Writing	Immediate, specific feedback during the writing process can help students practice metacognition while refining their writing skills.
Word Manipulatives	Students can select visuals that insert words into sentences. Actively manipulating sentences deepens understanding of how they are formed and of new concepts in context.
Whole Language	Students compose story parts that make meaningful connections to their units of study.