

There Are Two Sides to Every Story!

This activity is designed to address issues of comprehension, creativity, oral presentation skills and creative writing; and to encourage students to use their imagination to create original stories based on existing text.

Overview:	Students will apply comprehension skills and practice creative writing skills by reading a text and brainstorming other versions of the story from different characters' perspectives, then (optional) creating their own original books by writing and illustrating those stories.
Standards addressed:	<p>Common Core Standards</p> <p>Reading Standards for Literature 4.6 Compare and contrast the narrator's point of view from which different stories are narrated, including the difference between first- and third-person point of view. Describe how the narrator's or speaker's point of view influences how events are described.</p> <p>Reading Standards for Literature 5.6 Describe how a narrator's or speaker's point of view influences how events are described.</p> <p>Writing Standards 4.3 a–e Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details and clear sequences. (See standards for criteria.)</p> <p>Writing Standards 5.3 a–e Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details and clear sequences. (See standards for criteria.)</p>
Activity works best with:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual student • Small groups • Whole group
Preparation time:	Low–Medium

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Materials:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer with Internet access • LCD projector (if reading as a class) • Paper (optional) • Stapler (optional) • Pens/Pencils (optional) • Crayons/Markers (optional)
Preparation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct a web browser to the We Give Books website at www.wegivebooks.org. • Log in to your account and select a campaign to support. • Choose a book to read and click the orange “Read Online” button to open it.
Introduction:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain to students what it means to have a different perspective than someone else. • Tell students that you will read a story that has many different and interesting characters. • Explain to them that, when the story is finished, they will think about how the characters might each retell the story from their own perspective.

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<p>Activity:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the story as a whole class or in small groups. • When the story is finished, talk to students about the different characters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Who was telling the story? Was it a narrator or one of the characters? – How might the story be different if another character were telling the story? • Be sure to make note of all of the ideas by writing them down yourself, having students write down their own ideas, or assigning one or two students to be scribes who write down the ideas for the class. • Be sure to tell them that all ideas are good ideas and to use their imagination!
<p>Small group/ adaptation:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask students to work together to brainstorm how the story might be different if another character were telling the story. • Write down all of the ideas, or assign a couple of students to be scribes who write down the ideas for the class.

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Tips for expansion:

- Have students rewrite the story from the perspective of a different character and edit the story until they have a final draft, or manuscript. This portion of the activity might be incorporated into an English/Language Arts lesson that could span several class periods, depending on your timeframe, or be assigned as homework.
- Once students are satisfied with their story, have them take several pieces of paper (amount will depend on the length of the story), fold them in half, and write and illustrate their own book, being sure to credit themselves as the author and illustrator on the front cover!
- Students can create their story in sections on a [Scroll](#). You can find instructions for this project online in the Craft Projects section, among many other resources, available to you to download for free on the **We Give Books** website at www.wegivebooks.org/resources.
- Have a Reading Mentor Day with a lower grade where each student pairs up with a younger student. As a whole group, read the original book at www.wegivebooks.org; then have the older students read the story that they wrote to the younger students.