

A MIDSUMMER LITERACY + ART EXTRAVAGANZA



BODY-SCULPT THAT SCENE!

BRINGING STRIKING STORY MOMENTS TO LIFE

Overview:

When we think back on a story we know, for many people the first thing that pops into their mind is an image of a really striking moment. A plot is, of course, a series of moments that all weave together into a narrative. Certain moments are *meant* to stand out (e.g. the climax of the story). Other moments stand out to certain people because of their own lived experiences or interests.

This activity will help young people take such vivid moments and bring them to life in a fun, interactive, and embodied way. In short, one person "sculpts" another person into a position that captures a striking moment of their choosing from something they've read or are reading. This allows a story to deepen its roots in participants' minds and memories, so that it can live on within them more fully— and continue bearing fruit for a long time to come.

The Activity:

1. In groups of two people, participants stand facing each other. They decide on one participant to be 'Person A' and the other 'Person B.' Both 'A' and 'B' will do the same thing at different times, so just choose roles at random.
2. All participants reflect on a chosen story, deciding on a single, striking scene they want to focus on. This is typically done in their minds, but for younger children, doing so in conversation can help.

Round 1

3. Person A will be the sculptor and Person B the sculpture. In other words, Person A will gently and appropriately shape Person B's body (and even face) into a single sculpture portraying the scene that Person A is trying to capture.



A MIDSUMMER LITERACY + ART EXTRAVAGANZA



BODY-SCULPT THAT SCENE!

BRINGING STRIKING STORY MOMENTS TO LIFE

4. Person B will try to be as receptive to A's guidance as they can, and then they will hold the position A leaves them in.
5. To make it more challenging, you may want to have Person A avoid verbal instructions and physical demonstrations of the position they want Person B to assume.
6. When the sculpting is done (after about half a minute), you can explore the sculpture(s) in whatever way seems appropriate. If all the participants know the story that Person A focused on, they can try to guess what scene was sculpted. If not, Person A can explain what their sculpture is portraying and tell a bit about their scene and its place in the story's overall plot.

Round 2

7. Person B is now be the sculptor and Person A the sculpture. Follow the same sequence and instructions as in Round 1 with roles reversed.

Ongoing Rounds

8. Continue going back and forth between partners as long as interest and time allows. If you have more than two people present, you can change partners as you proceed. In subsequent rounds, you can have sculptors focus on different scenes in the same story or move through different stories. Whatever works for you!

