



Discover Drama - The Most Magnificent Thing by Ashley Spires

Enrichment Tool

Focus: Theatre & Language Arts

Prepare: Set up a computer or other device in your home near some open space where your student/child is able to watch and move around to act out the story.

Join In: In this video:

- Heather reads the book to students
- Heather offers a couple of discussion prompts for you and your student/child
 - Have you ever worked on something and gotten really frustrated?
 - What do you do to help yourself feel better?
- Students will decide on simple props and a costume piece
- Students will listen and act out the story reading using facial expressions and movement

After the Video Enrichment Activity:

Create an original performance showing a character working hard to overcome an obstacle and accomplish their goal. This could be an autobiographical story about something that really happened to you, or it could be fictional (a story you make up)

Use the planning sheet below to guide you through the experience.

An example is provided to demonstrate how to use the sheet.

Planning My Performance

Envision/Conceptualize/Develop

Character - who will be the character?

Setting - where does the story take place?

Theme - what is the story about?

Plot - what happens during the story?

- Beginning?
- Middle?
- End?

Prepare

What props do I need?

What costumes do I need?

Where should I perform this?

Rehearse

If you need help, you can have a partner read your plot description while you try acting it out.

Think about how your character feels and what they are doing. Be sure to include some facial expressions and movements.

Practice. Give it a try.

Share

Invite your family members to watch or take a video of yourself to share.

Planning My Performance - SAMPLE

Envision/Conceptualize/Develop

Character - who will be the character? *I will play myself.*

Setting - where does the story take place? *This story takes place in the kitchen.*

Theme - what is the story about? *This is about the time I was making soup and I couldn't get the curry paste jar open*

Plot - what happens during the story?

- Beginning? *I put ingredients into a pot and stir.*
- Middle? *I try to open the jar and can't get it open. I try different ways to open it - twist really hard, running it under water, tapping it with a spoon, twist it with a towel on top, etc*
- End? *I get upset and do 5 finger breaths. Then I ask someone for help. And my story shows that it's ok to ask for help.*

Prepare

What props do I need? *Wooden spoon, soup pot, a jar, a small spoon, the sink*

What costumes do I need? *An apron*

Where should I perform this? *In my kitchen*

Rehearse

If you need help, you can have a partner read your plot description while you try acting it out. Think about how your character feels and what they are doing. Be sure to include some facial expressions and movements

Practice. Give it a try.

Share

Invite your family members to watch or take a video of yourself to share.

More Resources!

[Teaching Guide * The Most Magnificent Thing by Ashley Spires](#)

The Official Teaching Guide to The Most Magnificent Thing at Kids Can Press

[The Most Magnificent Thing Book Hack with Ashley Spires](#)

Watch Ashley turn her book into a purse!

[Make Something Magnificent](#)

The Official Kids Can Press website about the book, about Ashley, and about creativity. Be sure to check out all the amazing things that people have made out of the book itself!