

A Day in the Life of _____

LANGUAGE ARTS



Book Builder

Overview

Students imagine and portray a typical day for a chosen person, animal or object, developing empathy and perspective-taking while practising narrative writing.

Steps for Teachers

1. Brainstorm subjects together as a class (a firefighter, a butterfly, a pencil, a medieval knight)
2. Each student selects their subject and researches what a typical day might look like
3. Students create a timeline of their subject's day from morning to night
4. Students turn the timeline into a page plan: each page is one moment of the day
5. Students write a first-person narrative on each page from their subject's perspective
6. Students choose actors and backgrounds that match their subject, or photograph the real thing
7. Hold a reading party where students share their books and discuss what they learned

Example

A student makes 'A Day in the Life of a Honeybee.' The bee wakes in the hive, does the waggle dance, flies out for pollen, dodges a bird, returns to make honey, and rests — one page each. Page one reads: 'I wake up surrounded by my 50,000 sisters. Time to dance! My wiggles tell everyone where the best flowers are today.'

Grading Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Developing
Perspective & Voice	Consistently maintains first-person perspective; voice is authentic to the subject	Mostly maintains perspective with occasional slips	Frequently breaks from the subject's perspective
Research & Accuracy	Details about the subject's day are accurate and specific	Most details are plausible with some guesswork	Details are invented or inaccurate
Storytelling	Clear beginning, middle and end; each page turn moves the story forward	Story is organized but some pages stall or repeat	Story is disorganized or hard to follow
Book Craft	Text is easy to read, art supports every page, and the layout is consistent throughout	Pages are readable with some crowding or uneven placement	Text overlaps art or is hard to read; layout is inconsistent