

# Historical Retell

## LANGUAGE ARTS



Book Builder

## Overview

Students research a historical event and build an illustrated book that retells it, bringing history to life through characters, dialogue and page turns.

## Steps for Teachers

1. Assign or let students choose a historical event appropriate for their grade level
2. Have students research the event using provided resources or library materials
3. Students identify 3-5 key figures involved in the event
4. Students plan their pages on paper first: one moment of the event per page
5. Students write the dialogue each figure speaks, using speech bubbles for talking and plain text for narration
6. Students choose actors for the historical figures and backgrounds that match the time period
7. Students make page one a title page that names the event
8. Print or share the finished books and have students answer questions about their research

## Example

*A student builds a book about the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson debate the wording across six pages set in Independence Hall. Franklin's speech bubble reads, 'We must hang together, or most assuredly we shall all hang separately!' A narration line under each picture explains what was really at stake.*

## Grading Rubric

| Criteria            | Excellent                                                                                   | Proficient                                                                | Developing                                                   |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Historical Accuracy | All facts are accurate; the event is portrayed authentically with correct dates and details | Most facts are accurate with minor errors that don't affect understanding | Several inaccuracies present; the event needs more research  |
| Character Portrayal | Characters speak and act in ways consistent with historical records                         | Characters are generally believable with some anachronisms                | Characters don't reflect historical personalities            |
| 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 |