

When I Am Older...

LANGUAGE ARTS



Book Builder

Overview

Students picture themselves in the future and build a book about the life they imagine, practising goal-setting and future-tense writing.

Steps for Teachers

1. Discuss as a class what people can be and do as adults
2. Each student chooses an age and a life they want to imagine
3. Students list five things that would be true on a day in that life
4. Students plan one page per thing, ordered from morning to night
5. Students write each page in the future tense ('I will...') or as a future present ('I am...')
6. Students photograph themselves and add the cut-out to each page as the grown-up version
7. Students write a final page about one step they can take this year toward that life

Example

A student's book opens with 'When I am 28 I will be a marine biologist.' Each page shows her photo cut-out on a boat, in a wetsuit, at a microscope. The last page reads: 'This year I will read every book about sharks in our library.'

Grading Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Developing
Vision & Detail	The imagined life is specific, vivid and internally consistent	The imagined life is described but stays general	The imagined life is vague or contradictory
Language Use	Future tense is used correctly and consistently throughout	Future tense is mostly correct with occasional slips	Tense shifts make the writing hard to follow
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