

# Take and Go Lesson: It's in the Bag Narrative

## Part 1

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**Grade level:** 2-8

**Overview:** Using a mystery bag, students will utilize their inferencing skills to construct a narrative about character.

**Materials:** pre-packed bag with objects of your choice inside, paper, pencil

**Time:** 20-30 minutes

### **Instructional Sequence:**

1. Show students a bag with all of its contents one piece at a time.
2. Quick Write: ask students to list the things they see in the bag.
3. Revision for Precision: ask students to look at each noun that is listed and consider another word (synonym) or more precise word for each noun. (Example: "bag" might become "green bookbag" and "shoes" might become "flip flops"). Emphasize that writers are always trying to use the best, most precise words in their writing.
4. Select one object from the bag and ask students to infer what this might say about the owner. Some guiding questions might include: What are their interests? Where might they be going? Where might they be coming from? How might they spend their time?
5. Ask students to begin connecting some of the pieces together to construct a narrative about this person and their day.
6. Explain to students that effective writers think in depth about the details they include in their stories and how these details begin to create more complex characters.
7. Using their list, instruct students to create a flash draft (a quick writing draft) of their observation, using words that are as precise as possible. They will explain who they think owns this bag and where they might be going. They must justify their thinking using the objects from the bag as evidence.

**Comments & Extension:** The bag you present to students can easily be put together with objects from around your room or in your own bag. You can make the contents more or less complicated based on the needs of your students. Leverage these flash drafts for longer pieces or refer to this exercise as a tool for creating more complex characters.