

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

Part 2

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Grade level: 2-8

Overview: Students will collect a bag of objects that represents a character (from their real life or one they have imagined) and then write a description explaining how each object relates to that character.

Materials: Student bag, paper, pencil

Time: 30-40 minutes

Instructional Sequence:

1. Students will get out the bag of objects they collected and explain what type of character they were hoping to create. The complexity of the character can vary based on the needs of your class.
2. Students will list the objects from their bag on their paper. Ask students to add a description accompanying each object to explain why they chose to include it in their bag.
3. Explain to students that effective writers often add details to their writing that hold deeper meaning. These details can simply offer a clue as to where the character is going or where they are coming from, or they can give the reader deeper insight into the emotions or personality of the character.
4. Students will walk around the room and look at the bags and descriptions from other students. They need to consider whether the character they imagine from the descriptions matches the character the other student was attempting to create.

Comments & Extension: You can have students collect these bags at home and bring them in, or you can allow them to create them in class with pictures from magazines or online. Extend this lesson by asking students to create a bag for a character from a piece of literature. Additional extension could include asking students to think of non-physical objects a character might keep with them. What emotions, personality traits, or experiences might a character bring with them?