

Celebrating National Read A Book Day

National Day Classroom

“Write Your Own Book”

Classroom Activity

Goal: Students learn the building blocks of storytelling and begin crafting their own mini-book.

Materials:

- Blank folded booklets (stapled paper folded in half) or construction paper for covers + lined paper for inside
- Colored pencils, crayons, markers
- Sticky notes for brainstorming ideas
- A short children’s book for a read-aloud example

Step 1: Read to Inspire (15 minutes)

- Begin with a read-aloud of a short, engaging picture book.
- Afterward, ask:
 - *What made this story interesting?*
 - *Who was the main character?*
 - *What problem did they face?*
 - *How did the story end?*

This introduces **plot structure** in a simple way.

Step 2: Story Seeds (10 minutes)

Students brainstorm their own ideas by answering prompts on sticky notes:

- A character (Who is in my story?)
- A setting (Where does it happen?)
- A problem (What goes wrong?)
- A solution (How does it end?)

They can mix and match ideas to spark creativity.

Step 3: Mini-Book Drafting (20–25 minutes)

- Distribute the blank booklets.
- Guide students to break their story into 4–6 parts (beginning, middle, end).
- Each page can have:
 - A short sentence or two
 - A drawing to illustrate the action

You might say: “*Page 1 introduces your character. Page 2 shows the problem. Page 3 is when things get worse. Page 4 is the solution. Page 5–6 is the happy (or surprising!) ending.*”

Step 4: Author’s Touch (10 minutes)

- Students create a title page with their name as the author.
- Encourage them to design a colorful cover.

Step 5: Book Share Circle (15 minutes)

- Students take turns reading their stories aloud in small groups or to the whole class.
- Celebrate with an “**Author’s Applause**” after each reading.

✦✦ Extension Ideas:

- Make a classroom “library shelf” of student books for everyone to borrow and read.
- Have students write “About the Author” pages.
- Turn it into a longer project by typing stories and binding them into real-looking books.

