

Create A Life Story

with donnie I. betts



The Big Idea

Students will **share a life story** with peers, teachers, and their families. The stories are created either from each student's experiences, or they can make up a story using their wonderful imagination.

You'll Need

- Old photos or photos from your phone
- Pen and paper, a recording device, or a great memory.
- Step-By-Step video tutorial:
www.think360arts.org



The Plan

Step 1 - Introduction aka warm-up: Practice a call and response or a storytelling rap. This is shown in the video and also in an attached document.

Step 2 - Create your own rap by trying a call and response with peers, teachers, or caregivers. It does not have to rhyme-- have fun with it! This is to get you used to interacting with someone or a group.

Step 3 - Gather photos that you want to use for your life story, you may use photo albums, cell phone photos. (Watch the video for example)

Step 4 - See an example of a story that uses pictures and demonstrates how to use your body, voice, and face in the video.

Step 5 - Time to collaborate with your peers, parent, sibling, or teacher. Use the photos that you gathered and practice creating the story. If you are gathering a story from a loved one now is it time to interview. Listen, share, and use the phrase "tell me more."

Step 6 - Practice or rehearse your story with your loved one, in front of a mirror, and/or on a recording device.

Step 7 - After sharing your story, think about how you feel about the story. What emotions did others feel as you shared your story? Refer back to the video as often as you need. Have fun!

Teaching Artist Tip

- Have fun!
- Listen with your mind body and heart
- Share your story with others. The power of story is the sharing. In the sharing, the story is carried on for years.
- Use the phrase, "Tell me more," to motivate the person you are interviewing to share more of their story.



Going Further

- Start a family storytime once a month where a different family member or friend shares a story not yet heard.
- Talk about how the story makes you feel.
- <https://youtu.be/xEfDUkD3Ss8> storytelling with your children with donnie betts.



Spread The Word: A Storyteller Rap

by Linda Goss as told by donnie I. betts

This story is example of the call and response tradition in the African and Black culture. The tradition is also present in some other cultures as well like Latin. You can share this rap with your friends, your parents, whomever you like however they have to join in with you.

I'm a storytelling
With a story to tell
I can tell'em loud
I can tell'em well
I don't need a microphone
When I talk
I don't need a chair
Cause I'm going to walk
Strut and stroll
Cause I'm bad
And I'm bold
Gonna tell my own story
Tell it to the world
For all the boys
For all the girls
From the mountain top
To the valley low
Gonna "talk dat talk"
Gonna go-go-go

Call: Have you heard?

Response: Spread The Word

Call: Have you heard?

Response: Spread The Word?

Yeah, storytelling is the thing to do
It's an ancient art
and it's brand new
Medicine for the spirit
Healing for the soul
It's for the young
And it's for the old
It's for the rich
And it's for the poor
For the sick at heart
And what's more

It's for Black people, white people, Brown people too

Red, Yellow, Green, Orange, Purple and Blue

I can weave a tale that's outta sight

Yeah storytelling is what I'm about

I can run mouth till my eyes pop out

Call: Have you heard?

Response: Spread The Word

Call: Have you heard?

Response: Spread The Word