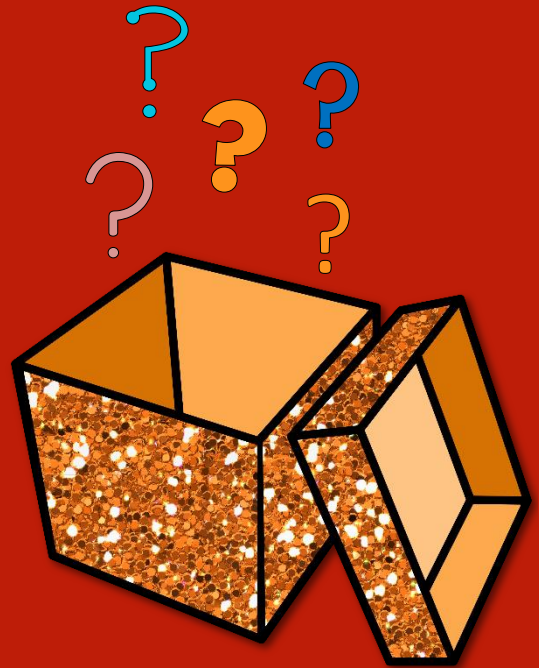


Thinking Outside The Box



Exercising Creative Minds: SET 2

So what is this resource?

If you are like me, you recognize that all the pushing we do to pass tests and get through our curriculum can be a dangerous game. It is my belief that if we prepare our students to be hard workers, creative thinkers, and team players and pair that with quality instruction--the rest will simply fall into place.

What we often don't leave enough time for in our busy school day is time to nurture creativity. Whether it be letting students solve engaging real-world problems, write freely about topics they care about, research things in the world that interest them--or any other exercises in creativity, we must give students time to practice being creative.

This resource is geared toward helping you squeeze a little "creativity instruction" into your packed day! Whether you use these as warm ups, team builders, center activities, or exercises for fast finishers, this resource has everything ready for you to print and use and even has work samples to make it even more clear!

What's included?

Three different types of activities are included with this resource...including blank pages so you or students can make up your own!

"Picture This!" sheets where students take a "piece" of a picture and design the rest of the scene around it!

"Number Namers" sheets where students need to find multiple ways to "make" a number—and then try to predict which ways the most people will make...and try to make some that NO one else creates!

"Tell a Tale" sheets that ask students to read the first line or two of a story...and then use what they know about story telling to continue the story and write their own ending!

These activities are great for upper elementary and middle schools students—and are a GREAT staff development activity to remind even the adults how important it is to think outside the box!

Picture This!

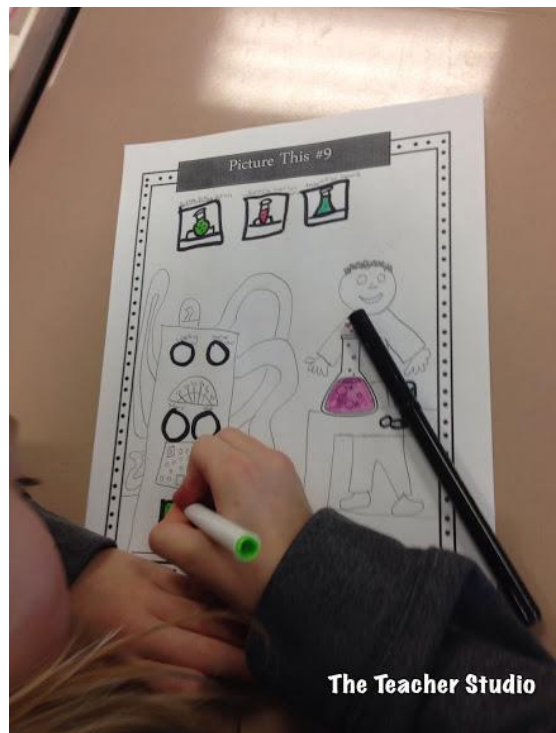
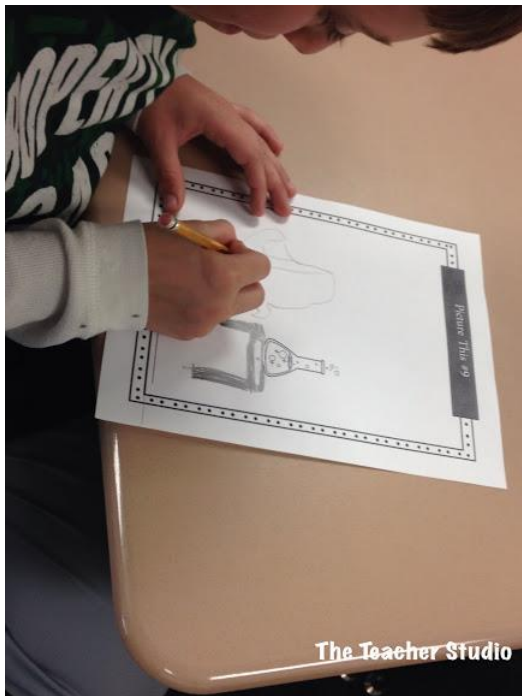
What is "Picture This!"? This started out as an indoor recess activity for my students on cold winter days! They would be able to draw or play board games, but I kept hearing "I don't know what to draw!" I came up with an assortment of "starters" for them—from "Squigglestorms" (In Set I of "Thinking Outside the Box") to "Picture This" where I start a drawing and the students would draw the scene around it.

I would sketch something easy...like a balloon or a tree, and students would finish the rest. I've done the same thing with black line clip art for your students to use!

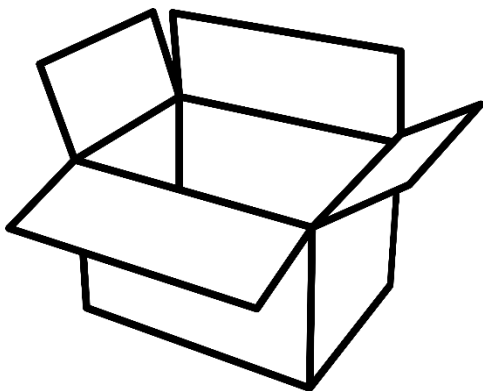
I hope your students have fun with the pages I have started—but have also given a blank one for YOU to make your own—or for students to make them for other students. I added in the place to name their masterpiece so that they could get even MORE creative. We talked about titles and how writers and authors choose titles—and they were off and running! Enjoy!

Picture This!

Like this!

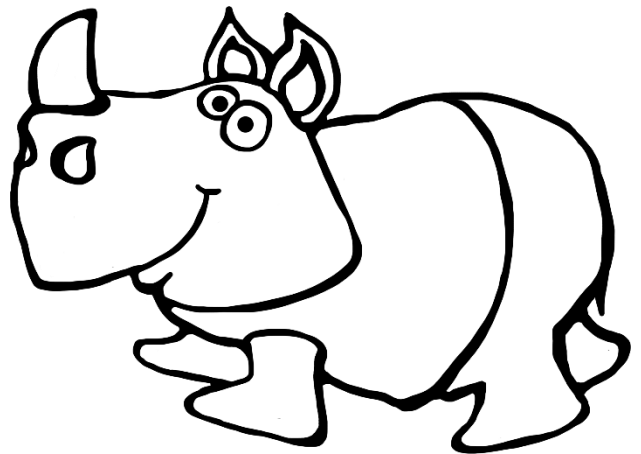


Picture This #1



This masterpiece is entitled:

Picture This #2



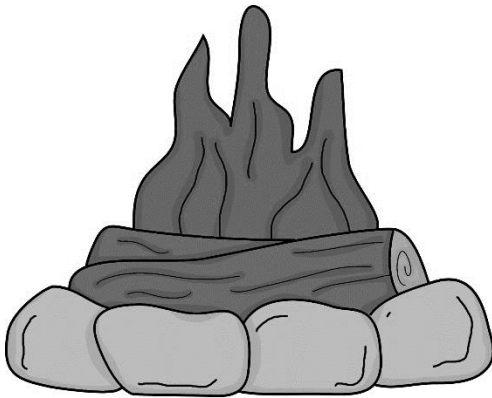
This masterpiece is entitled:

Picture This #3



This masterpiece is entitled:

Picture This #4



This masterpiece is entitled:

Picture This #5



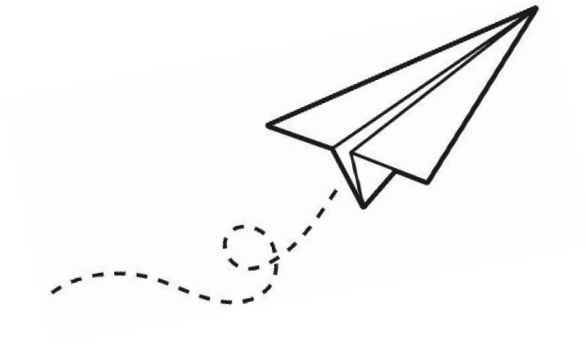
This masterpiece is entitled:

Picture This #6



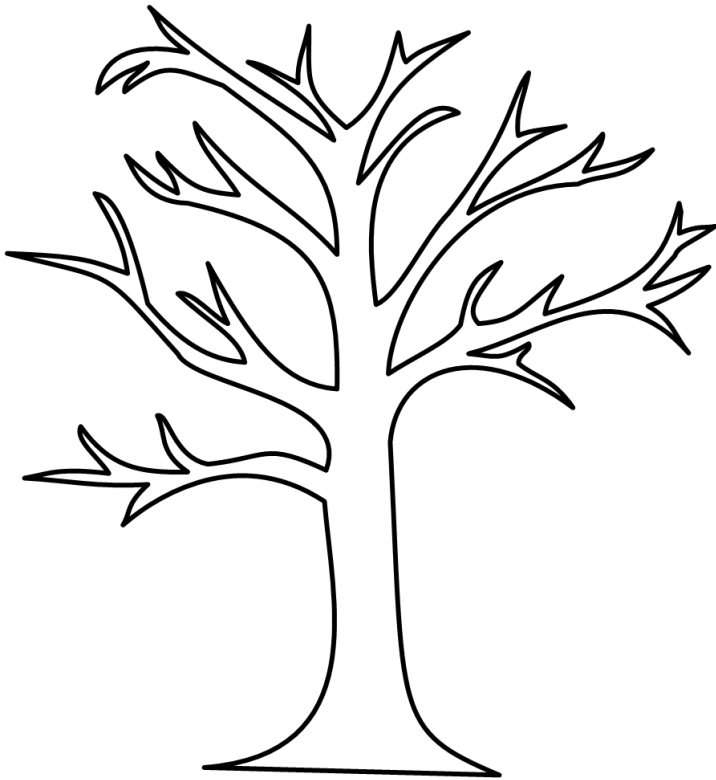
This masterpiece is entitled:

Picture This #7



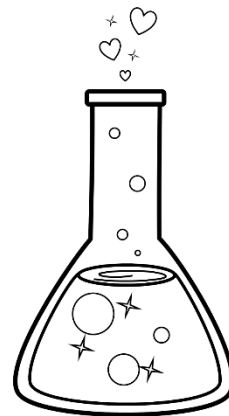
This masterpiece is entitled:

Picture This #8



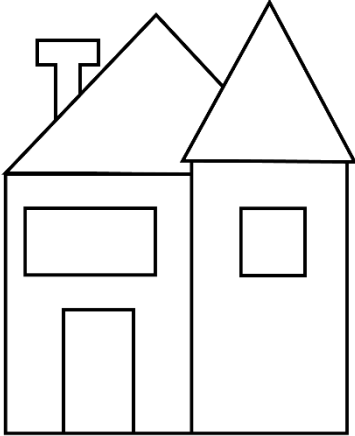
This masterpiece is entitled:

Picture This #9



This masterpiece is entitled:

Picture This #10



This masterpiece is entitled:

My "Picture This"

This masterpiece is entitled:

Number Namers!

What are "Number Namers"? This idea started when we worked as a class to make equations to equal certain numbers and I noticed LOTS of students coming up with the same numbers! I started to challenge them to think about what equations would be predictable—and what equations would be creative enough that no one else would come up with them!

You might even consider making a chart with all the "novel" or "unique" equations that students come up with. Just wait—your students are going to really try to outdo each other! This is a great way to differentiate...all four operations can be used as can decimals, fractions, and more! Encourage students to push themselves and celebrate all the math creativity! A blank page is included so you can make more of your own to tie to your curriculum. Try doing time...measurement...mixed number...negative numbers...and more!

Number Namers!

Number Namers #8

999

Predictable Equations	Unique Equations
$1000 - 1 = 999$	$990 + 8 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} =$
$900 + 99 = 999$	$2 \times 500 - 1 = 9$
$900 + 90 + 9 = 999$	
$995 + 4 = 999$	
$995 + 2 = 999$	

The Teacher Studio

Like this!

Number Namers!

\$1.00

predictable	unique
* $50¢ + 50¢ = \$1.00$	$\frac{1}{2}$ of $\$20 - \$9 = \$1.00$
✓ $100¢ \times 1 = \$1.00$	$25¢ \times 2 \times 2 = \1.00
* $4 \times 25¢ = \$1.00$	$10¢ + 20¢ + 30¢ + 40¢ = \1.00
* $99¢ + 1¢ = \$1.00$	$5¢ \times 5 = 25¢$
* $40¢ + 60¢ = \$1.00$	$25¢ \times 4 = \$1.00$
$\$10.00 - \$9.00 = \$1.00$	$\frac{1}{2}$ of $\$2.00 = \1.00

The Teacher Studio

And this!

Number Namers #1

10

Predictable Equations

Unique Equations

Number Namers #2

25

Predictable Equations

Unique Equations

Number Namers #3

$\frac{1}{2}$

Predictable Equations

Unique Equations

Number Namers #4

100

Predictable Equations

Unique Equations

Number Namers #5

\$1.00

Predictable Equations

Unique Equations

Number Namers #6

500

Predictable Equations

Unique Equations

Number Namers #7

0.1

Predictable Equations

Unique Equations

Number Namers #8

999

Predictable Equations

Unique Equations

Number Namers #9

1,234

Predictable Equations

Unique Equations

Number Namers #10

0

Predictable Equations

Unique Equations

My Number Namers



Predictable Equations

Unique Equations

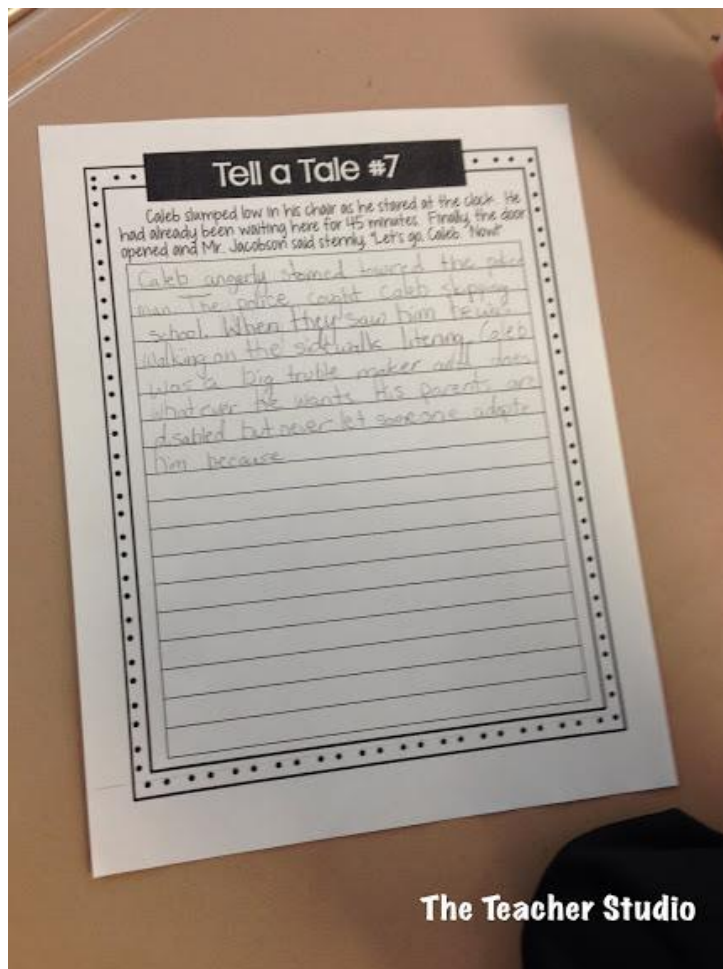
Tell a Tale!

What is "Tell a Tale"? This is a set of story starters that asks students to use their imagination to take the dramatic beginning and create their own story based on it! You may wish to tie this to your units on fiction writing or just use it to enhance creativity in your classroom. Don't be surprised if some of your reluctant writers are willing to jump in and try this—especially if you use these as enrichment instead of for a grade. Encourage the ideas to flow—but remind them that people like to read stories that are believable and make sense!

Students may need some guidance about how to continue from an interesting lead—especially when settings and characters aren't mentioned explicitly! They may need to be given "permission" to add in their own ideas and details! I have included extra lined paper to go along with the prompts, but feel free to just use notebook paper to save on copies if you wish! I've included a blank version as well—in case your students want to make up beginnings for each other!

Tell a Tale!

Like this!



The Teacher Studio

A blank sheet of lined paper with a decorative border of dots. The page features a central writing area with 20 horizontal lines. The border consists of a double-line outer frame with a row of small black dots between the lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page.

A blank sheet of lined paper with a decorative border of dots. The page features a central writing area with horizontal lines, surrounded by a border of small black dots. The lines are evenly spaced and cover most of the page's width and height.

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My Tell a Tale

A large, empty rounded rectangular box for writing a title or a short paragraph.

A series of 18 horizontal lines for writing the main body of the story.

A blank sheet of lined paper with a decorative border of dots. The page features a central writing area with horizontal lines, surrounded by a border of small black dots. The lines are evenly spaced and cover most of the page's width and height.

I have taught grades 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 for the past twenty "plus" years and pride myself on my creativity and ability to engage students in meaningful learning. I have my masters in educational leadership and curriculum and look forward to sharing many of my ideas with all of you!

Digital paper from www.sassy-designs.net

Fabulous fonts from <http://www.kimberlygeswein.com/>

Fun Frames by

<http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Teaching-For-Fun>

Other clip art by

<http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Whimsy-Workshop-Teaching>

<http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Glitter-Meets-Glue-Designs>

<http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Scrappin-Doodles>

<http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Tracee-Orman>

<http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/The-Enlightened-Elephant>

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