

Spork

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How do we write from an object's perspective?

Big Question: How can understanding someone's background enhance our sense of identity and build acceptance in a community?

Use this lesson to get students writing from different perspectives and points of view, and to help build empathy for their classmates.

Quick write



1. 60 seconds to create a list of objects.
2. 5 minutes to write about themselves, if they were a new invention - something that combined two of the objects from their list (eg. basketball ball-can opener)
3. "Imagine you are a new invention combining two different tools or objects. Describe what you are, your unique features, and how you feel about fitting in with the other tools or objects."
4. Give an opportunity to share their writing.

Collab-Thinking Option: Ugly Duckling Clichés - Have groups think of different scenarios where the protagonist overcomes being ostracized.

Fluency Routine

Use the sections that starts with, "at Dinnertime, he watched from the drawer".

If you are pointing out spelling:

- **words ending with "ed":** noticing how the root word changes

If you are pointing out vocabulary:

- **Rhythmic**

Collab-Thinking Option: Have groups come up with other activities for the utensils that use alliteration like in the book.



Craft Moves

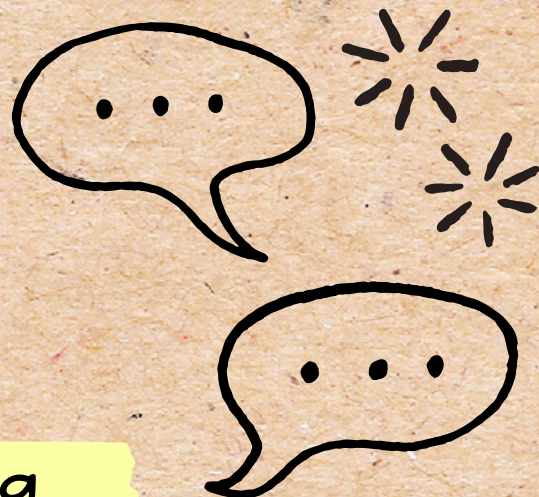
Have groups discuss the story's relatability.

Give groups questions like:

What groups in our society might relate with Spork?
If Spork's identity crisis is a metaphor for different cultural identities, why use an object and not a person as the protagonist?

Group work

Have groups plan and act out a scene with Spork interacting with other utensils, emphasizing acceptance and diversity.



Modeled writing

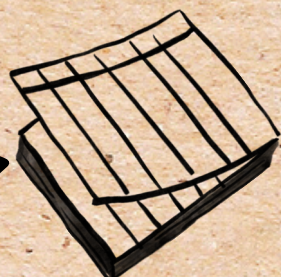
Show students how you would plan to write a piece that describes someone watching others have fun together in groups and feeling all alone.

Emphasize mentioning where they are watching from, and using words like "looked on".

Use alliteration like in the text.

Then send them to write their version!

Extending



Some options to initiate recall and transference of the learning:

- In Social Studies: Link the theme of identity and acceptance to cultures you are researching focusing on how they contribute to a diverse society.
- Creative Writing: Have students write a short story about an object in their home that feels out of place or unique, using the craft moves they worked on.

