

Collaborative Retellings

Practice communication skills through collaborative retellings

ENGAGE

Start a discussion with students:

- What are some of your favorite fairy tales?
- Tell us about the characters.
- What is the setting of the story?
- Can you briefly retell the story?
- What happens in the beginning? Middle? End?
- What types of magic are in fairy tales?

Explain to students that they will collaborate with a partner to creatively retell a fairy tale.

EXPLORE

Have students work in pairs. They must pick one story to collaboratively retell. They will build out three models—one to represent the beginning, middle, and end.

EXPLAIN

When they have finished building, ask students to take turns showing their models and allowing them to collaboratively retell their story. Ask the students to recall the main events of the story. Then consider asking questions like:

- How did you decide on which story to retell with your partner?
- What was the most successful part of this task?
- What was the hardest part of this task?
- How did you use effective communication to help you with your retelling?
- How did demonstrate aspects of good teamwork today?

ELABORATE

Tell students that stories are sometimes rewritten with completely different endings. Ask the students to build a scene depicting an alternate ending.

EXTEND

To continue the learning, have students complete one of the following activities:

- Rewrite the story from using a completely different setting.
- Rewrite your story in a script form to be used as a play and/or reader's theater.
- Create a "four corners" place mat by folding a piece of paper into quarters and describing four different points of view about the story as first-person narration, using the voice of a different character.

