



Good Tidings®

Stories. Brighter Days.
Bigger Readers.

THE ONE MORE STORY EFFECT

Curiosity sparks better readers!

Mystery Bag Preview

TEACHER GUIDE

Three objects. Endless possibilities!

Students investigate three objects connected to a story, predict how they might be related, and revise their theories as the story unfolds. This hands-on, discussion-based activity builds curiosity, inference skills, and deeper comprehension.

Small clues often lead to big stories!



GRADE RANGE

2–5



PREPARATION TIME

5–10 minutes



MATERIALS

- 3 story-related objects
- Mystery bag or box
- Student activity sheet
- Pencils or pens

SKILLS & STANDARDS

- ✓ Making connections
- ✓ Oral language
- ✓ Inferencing
- ✓ Revising predictions
- ✓ Text evidence
- ✓ Discussion and collaboration

Common Core ELA (Grades 2–5)

RL.2.1 RL.3.1 RL.4.1 RL.5.1

RL.2.3 RL.3.3 RL.4.3 RL.5.3

SL.2.1 SL.3.1 SL.4.1 SL.5.1

TEACHING DIRECTIONS

- 1** Select three objects. Choose items that connect to your read-aloud or class novel (character, setting, event, or theme). Place them in a bag or box.
- 2** Introduce the activity. Explain that the objects are clues from the story. Students will predict how they might be connected.
- 3** Explore and predict. Show (or pull) the three objects. Give students time to observe, ask questions, and record their ideas on the activity sheet.
- 4** Discuss. In pairs or small groups, have students share their predictions and reasoning.
- 5** Read and revisit. Continue reading the story. Encourage students to notice how the objects relate to the story events.
- 6** Reflect. Complete the after-reading section. Students compare their predictions with the actual story and explain how their thinking changed.

DIFFERENTIATION IDEAS

- Support (Grades 2–3):** Provide picture or sentence prompts to help with predictions. Allow drawing instead of writing.
- Challenge (Grades 4–5):** Ask for multiple predictions or a theory with evidence from the text.
- Extension:** Have students design their own mystery bag for a classmate, including a short note explaining the connection.
- Small Groups:** Use sentence frames for discussion.
- Multilingual Learners:** Allow students to label objects in their home language and discuss in pairs.

QUICK ASSESSMENT

- ☐ Student makes a reasonable prediction about how the objects might connect.
- ☐ Student provides at least one detail or reason for their prediction.
- ☐ Student revises their prediction after reading and explains why.
- ☐ Student can identify how the objects relate to the story's characters, events, setting, or theme.





Good Tidings®

Stories. Brighter Days.
Bigger Readers.

THE ONE MORE STORY EFFECT

Small clues. Big adventures!

Look closer.
Think deeper.
Stories connect
in surprising ways!



Mystery Bag Preview

Three objects. What could they mean?

My Mystery Objects

Look at the three objects carefully. What do you notice? What might they mean?
Use the boxes to draw or describe each object.

Object 1

Object 2

Object 3

My Story Theory

How do you think these three objects might be connected?
What do you think might happen in the story? Write your prediction and explain your thinking.

I predict...

My Clues and Reasoning

Write at least two clues (from the objects) that support your prediction.
Explain why each clue makes you think this.

1 Clue: _____

This makes me think... _____

2 Clue: _____

This makes me think... _____

After Reading... The Big Reveal!

Now that you've finished the story, compare
your prediction with what actually happened.

What actually happened?

Was my prediction correct? ☐ Yes! ☐ Partly! ☐ Not quite!

How was my prediction similar or different
from what really happened?

Optional Challenge: Design Your Own Mystery Bag!

Choose a different story and select three objects that connect to it. Put them in a bag for a classmate to investigate.
Write a short note explaining how your objects relate to the story (but don't give away the ending!).