



Image: Still from *Is this Farming*.

### **Create a Storyboard from a Different Point of View**

**Overview: Learning and Activity Sequence for Grades 9-12**

**Suggested Time to Complete: 3 to 4 Sessions of 30-45 minutes**

**The Goal:** Exploring themes of storytelling and animation through examples from the Public School Film Festival.

**The Objective:** Students will learn about storytelling and animation, explore animations from other students, and create a storyboard for a retelling of the story.

#### **Essential Questions:**

1. What are some identifying factors for determining different points of view in storytelling?
2. How can you retell a story from a different perspective?
3. How does telling a visual story through animation differ from writing a story?
4. What are some visual storytelling techniques?

#### **Overview:**

In this sequence of lessons, students will learn about storytelling and animation techniques and identify different techniques for visual storytelling.

Students will then create a storyboard that reimagines a story told by a different point of view.

- Lesson 1: Watch and identify the moral of the story for *Is this Farming*.
- Lesson 2: View related resources and discuss the three types of point of view.
- Lesson 3: Introduce students to storyboards and reimagine a story from a different point of view.

***DISCLAIMER:*** Resources in these activities contain external internet links. In other words, once a student links to a video or to one of the recommended images, they are on an external site and have access to whatever the site has placed online. As with all independent student engagement, it is strongly recommended that parents or guardians actively supervise each student's independent research.

## **SESSION 1: The Moral of the Story**

**Lesson Objective:** In this lesson, students learn about identifying the moral of a story. Students will watch *Is this Farming* and answer questions about the meaning of the animated short film.

### **Materials:**

- laptop, tablet, or phone
- Wifi

### **Resources:**

- <https://youtu.be/doESve6kjoI?t=651>

**ACTIVITY:** Watch *Is this Farming*: [Mayor's Office of Media & Entertainment presents 3rd Annual NYC Public School Film Festival](#), Start Time: 10:51

In *Is this Farming*, the main character, a mouse, finds a kernel of corn and grows a cornstalk. It takes patience and perseverance to cultivate crops, but are the results worth it?

### **Discussion Questions**

1. What do you think is the moral of this story?
2. What are some acts of patience that you've experienced in your everyday life?
3. Was it worth the time and effort it took?
4. Was there a time that you took the extra time to do something, even though you knew that not doing it would have been easier? What was that like?

“It is a narrow mind which cannot look  
at a subject from various points of view”

- George Eliot, *Middlemarch*

## **SESSION 2: Point of View**

**Lesson Objective:** In this lesson, students will identify and compare the points of view from three different animations.

### **Materials:**

- laptop, tablet, or phone
- Wifi

### **Resources:**

- <https://youtu.be/doESve6kjoI?t=651>
- <https://youtu.be/B5vEfuLS2Qc>

**ACTIVITY:** Watch [First person vs. Second person vs. Third person - Rebekah Bergman](#). Introduce students the three major points of view in storytelling:

- First person is the “I/we” perspective.
- Second person is the “you” perspective.
- Third person is the “he/she/it/they” perspective.

**ACTIVITY:** Students will watch the 3 following short films and compare and contrast the types of storytelling for each.

[Mayor's Office of Media & Entertainment presents 3rd Annual NYC Public School Film Festival](#)

*Is This Farming*, Start Time: 10:51, End Time: 11:56

*To Every End*, Start Time: 11:58, End Time: 14:25

*Self Confidence*, Start Time: 15:20, End Time: 17:50

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Which story fits under first person point of view?
2. Which story fits under second person point of view?
3. Which story fits under third person point of view?
4. How can the viewer tell the difference between the three major types of storytelling?



### **SESSIONS 3 & 4: Reimagine a story from a different point of view.**

**Lesson Objective:** In this lesson, students choose one of the animations from Session 2 and tell the story from a different point of view. They will do this by creating a storyboard with a new perspective.

#### **Materials:**

- laptop, tablet, or phone
- Wifi
- Blank paper
- Pen/Pencil
- Ruler

#### **Resources:**

- Storyboard handout
- <https://youtu.be/doESve6kjoI?t=651>

**ACTIVITY:** Create a storyboard that reimagines one of the animations from Session 2 and retells the story from a different character's point of view.

1. First, pick 5-7 frames of the animation of your choice that signify the most important parts of the story. What is the action in the frame? Which characters are present? What is the setting? Notice the composition of the frame. Is it a close up? A medium shot? Or a wide shot?

2. Now use the handout, or draw 5-7 boxes with room for you to write captions below each square. (imagine that you are creating a layout that is similar to a graphic novel or a comic book).
3. Remembering all the elements that you observed and documented in step one, start creating your very own storyboard that communicates your new story from the cornstalk's perspective. What are the actions that need to happen in each square or frame to convey the arc of your new character's story?
4. Remember, you don't have to be a visual artist to create the drawings in a storyboard. Feel free to draw something that is fun and easy for you. You can draw stick figures, abstract shapes, etc. The most important thing is to think about how each frame tells the story of how your new character becomes the main character
5. Add captions (one sentence) under each frame that describe what is happening. In addition to writing the action, you can also add the dialogue that might be happening between the characters in the frame.

**Resources:**

[The Art of Animation and Motion Graphics | Off Book](#)

to see lots of animation examples and hear animators talk about their work.

Go to [Studio Binder](#) to see storyboards from movies like Aliens, Star Wars and more.