

(Ghost) Stories of Ordinary Objects Activity

In *Bone's Gift*—and the rest of the Ghosts of Ordinary Objects series—Bone Phillips can sense the story behind ordinary objects. It's her Gift. Some of those stories are sad, some happy. The happy is generally stronger.

Now you and your students can try out *Bone's Gift* for yourselves. Each page of the attached worksheets features a different object. Students can pick which ones call to them and then write a 100-word (or longer) story about it.

Mini-Lesson Plan

Objective: write a narrative with a beginning, middle, and end about an object. (Aligns with CCSS ELA Literacy W3)

Materials:

- Stories of Ordinary Objects Worksheet
- Writing material (pen/paper/laptop)
- *Bone's Gift*

Instruction:

1. Review *Bone's Gift*, with particular emphasis on how the main character used her Gift. How did it work? What stories did she experience?
2. Review the main elements of a story. (Adjust to the age group.) What does a good story need to include? (Characters, setting, plot, conflict, etc.) What happens in the beginning, middle, and end of stories?

3. Use Bone's Gift or the story of Ashpet (aka, Cinderella) to model and discuss the main elements of story.

Activity:

1. Let students pick an object from the worksheets. Which one calls to them?
2. Have them write a 100-word or longer story about that object. What happened to that thing and the people who owned it? Why is it special?
3. Share!

Extension:

- Revision: Students can workshop their stories with each other or a critique partner. Each student should give the other one comment on something that worked well in the story and one constructive suggestion for improving it. Then each student revises his/her story.
- Description: Instead of a story, each student can write a descriptive paragraph about the object of his/her choice.

Resources: See NCTE's lesson plans and tips on [story structure](#)!