

Home Learning Activities during self-isolation

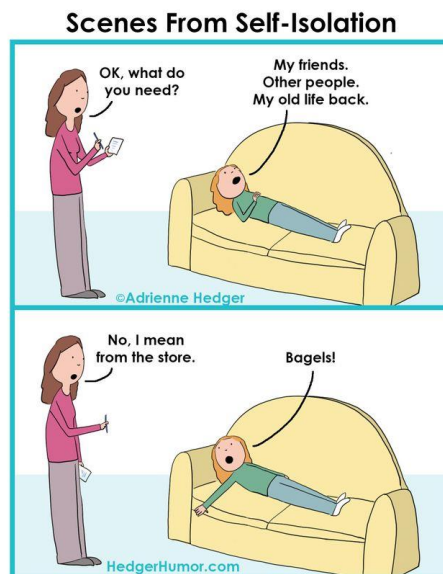
By Georgina Barton

Activity 1: Create a comic strip

This activity can be done with either a digital device such as an iPad or phone as well as hand drawn on paper.

Steps:

1. Have your child choose one of their favourite picture books.
2. Read the story for enjoyment.
3. Identify the sequence of the story – this means how many sections of the story are there including what we call the exposition (introduction), complication (when something goes wrong), and the resolution (how it resolves in the end). There may be other sections to the action such as being home, going to the park etc.
4. Once you have identified each section rule up a piece of paper with the same number of squares
5. Have your child/ren draw a picture that represents each section OR they could also take photos for this part of the activity (e.g. you and their siblings could dress up and act out the scenes in a freeze frame)
6. If you have taken photos input them into [Pixel Art Camera](#). This makes the photos look like a comic strip
7. They can then either print these and glue them into a comic page OR use a comic book creator and input them digitally.
8. Another option is create their own story sequence using [Pixton](#).



Activity 2: Make a diorama

Dioramas are 3D models that represent a scene from a book etc.

1. To start this activity I like to show children some examples of professional dioramas e.g. in museums. Discuss what they can see and how they think the people have made it (they could also watch *Night at the Museum* to get inspiration!)
2. If your child has recently read a book they are passionate about have them select a scene from the book to recreate.
3. Another option is to create a real life diorama for science e.g. an ecosystem in the rainforest with labels of different types of plants etc.
4. Gather all the materials you will need including an unused shoe box or other box, paints, colouring pens, plasticine or play doh, cellophane and/or tissue paper (anything really)
5. Start creating!!

An extension activity would be for your child to write a companion guide to their diorama. Their diorama could also be, rather than a direct scene from a book, a sequel to the book that they have created themselves – kind of like fanfiction 😊



This diorama is at the Blackhawk museum in the USA retrieved from:

https://www.tripadvisor.com/LocationPhotoDirectLink-g60802-d279494-i195578497-Blackhawk_Museum-Danville_Tri_Valley_California.html



This is a great example of what an early years child could create – from Pinterest
<https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/470485492295717622/>

Activity 3: Use Morpho app (only available on iPads)

The Morpho app allows children/students to take a photo of a character in any picture book and then record a voice-over, bringing the character to life. When we have used this app in classrooms the students have really enjoyed it!

1. Download the Morpho app.
2. Explore the 'Play' option
3. Now start creating by taking a photo from your favourite picture book
4. Explore changing the eyes and mouth
5. Write down what the character might be thinking in the story – something that the author has not told you)
6. Record your voice reading your words above
7. Share with your family.



Activity 4: Make a stop motion movie

A stop motion movie is where you take single photos of a character/scene and slowly move the figures between each photo. They can take a really long time to create but hopefully this will keep the children engaged for some time ☺

1. Create a story board for a short narrative involving one or two characters and a background or setting.
2. Using lego or plasticine and a diorama background, take your first photo. Then slowly move your character (including their arms, legs etc) through the setting to create your drama.
3. Be careful not to move the character too far as the final product will look a bit jumpy.
4. Once you have taken all your photos you can input them into iMovie OR use powerpoint. You can place one photo on each powerpoint slide and input a timer to change slides quickly – showing your newly created film.

There are some wonderful stop motion lego movies on Youtube including:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IfiG_oIGI4

A more hand-made approach can be seen in this great example based on a traditional story *Tiddalik the Frog*:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vcEv-W0gzH0>



Activity 4: Create a sound scape

Many multimodal texts use music and sound to add to the overall effect. Imagine your favourite movie without music! It would be hard to experience the intense emotion without music in film. For this activity you can pick your favourite children's book story or select a part of the story. Even better would be for you to write your own story, act it out and perform a sound scape that accompanies your story.

1. Gather some instruments and/or other items that create desired sounds. Some examples would be a shaker made out of a plastic container and rice, sticks and dry leaves from the garden, kitchen utensils etc.
2. Similar to creating a story board you can create a graphic score that shows where and for how long each 'instrument' needs to play. This will help you record your sound scape for the acting of the story.
3. When planning your soundscape be sure to think about the types of instruments/sounds you want for to create the emotion. You can also use volume (loud/soft), tempo (fast/slow), texture (smooth/rough) and timbre (high/low pitch) to create your desired atmosphere.
4. You can play every part yourself and record them individually and then input them into iMovie OR you could get your siblings or family to perform or even your friends to perform their parts online.

Here is an example of a graphic score created on the following website:

<https://timwardropmusic.files.wordpress.com/2012/05/score5.jpg>

