



Tell me a Story

In this activity, students will use the Sphero Mini to follow a path. This activity will start by driving Sphero through a maze. At different points on the path there will be "checkpoints" and students will respond to story prompts. This activity can be done multiple times for several different texts. Some of the checkpoints could involve characters, setting, problem, solution, etc. Join us as we explore a unique literacy activity with a Sphero Mini twist!

Materials

- Sphero Mini Robot
- Activity Kit bowling pins, rails, connectors, arches, etc.
- Device to control Sphero Mini (iPad, cellphone, etc.)
- Sphero Play or Sphero Edu App
- Internet access
- Paper or digital space to record literacy questions prompts

Student Objectives

- Students will respond to literacy prompts and answer questions about character, setting, plot, etc.
- Students will be able to ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text
- Students will determine the meaning of words and phrases in a text
- Students will collaborate with peers to move Sphero through a maze and ask/answer questions
- Students will learn programming skills to drive their Sphero Mini robots

Teacher Technology Skills Needed

- Understanding of the Sphero Mini
- Understanding of Sphero Play/Sphero Edu App
- Understanding of how to push out content digitally to students
- Skills for driving and controlling the Sphero Mini

Standards

NGSS Standards:

- 3R1: Develop and answer questions to locate relevant and specific details in a text to support an answer or inference. (RI&RL)
- 3R2: Determine a theme or central idea and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize portions of a text. (RI&RL)



- 3R3: In literary texts, describe character traits, motivations, or feelings, drawing on specific details from the text. (RL)
- 3R6: Discuss how the reader's point of view or perspective may differ from that of the author, narrator or characters in a text. (RI&RL)
- 3R7: Explain how specific illustrations or text features contribute to what is conveyed by the words in a text (e.g., create mood, emphasize character or setting, or determine where, when, why, and how key events occur). (RI&RL)

Procedure

1. Start the lesson by reviewing key literary concepts: character, setting, problem, solution, etc. In addition, this lesson will start off by having students read a story, passage, or book that will lead into the continuation of this activity.
2. Once students have an overview of each literary concept, they will be ready to take on the challenge of driving Sphero through a maze. Students will set up their maze using rails, connectors, arches, pins, cones, etc. This is an opportunity for students to get creative with their Activity Kit!
3. Once the maze has been assembled, you will have two choices:
 - a. The first choice is for you as the teacher to create literary questions that will be at given checkpoints on the maze.
 - b. The second option is to have students create questions for one another.
4. The question making process could include questions such as:
 - What are some characteristics of _____ character in the story?
 - How did the character feel at the beginning and end of the story?
 - What is the setting of the story? Did it change at all?
 - What was the problem in the story? How was this problem resolved?
 - If you could write a new ending to the story what would it be?
5. Next, students will use the Sphero Mini to move through the maze. This will be done by using the Sphero Play App on Tilt or Drive mode. The Sphero Edu App could also be used to add code to move the Sphero.
6. Students will then pause at the "checkpoints" and answer each question. Students can write out their responses, type them out and post them on a learning management system of your choice, or verbally share them.
7. This can continue until checkpoints have been reached. Discussion can continue for each question or can lead into additional questions.
8. This lesson will conclude by having a group discussion about the story/book/passage as well as key concepts and findings while using the Sphero Mini robot.

Extension Activity



- Task students with the challenge of developing additional checkpoint questions. This can be typed out, handwritten, or verbally shared.
- Challenge students by having them create additional twists and turns to their maze for the Sphero Mini. Once it is created, students can re-program or drive their Sphero Mini through the maze with the extra challenges.