



## **Sphero Tells a Story**

Students will use Sphero to follow a path. At different points on the path there will be "checkpoints" and students will respond to story prompts. For example, character, setting, problem, solution. Join us as we explore a unique literacy activity with a Sphero twist!

### **Materials**

- Sphero Bolt Robot or Sphero SPRK + Robot
- Device to control Sphero (iPad, cellphone, etc.)
- Sphero Play or Sphero Edu App
- Internet access
- Paper or digital space to record literacy questions prompts
- Additional classroom or household objects to add twists and turns to the path

### **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 robots

### **Teacher Technology Skills Needed**

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

### **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 household/classroom objects (paper, books, toys, etc.). This is an opportunity for students to get creative with setting up their mazes!
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 Robot 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 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 Robot. Once it is created, students can re-program or drive their Sphero through the maze with the extra challenges.