



PARTICIPATORY STORIES

The Fern Flower (7 – 8 age group)

Learning objectives

This story is made up of 4 writing prompt sheets that allow the students to identify with and even embody characters. The goal is for them to collaboratively write the prequel, development and above all the sequel to the story, in order to better understand the stakes, to reflect on the morale and to learn the lessons from it in the process. Going from one sheet (writing prompt) to the next, the children will expand on the story and create their own ending to it.

Helpful Narrative & Writing Tools

- The shadow characters of Jacek and his mother and brother (1st sheet)
- Two drawings of flowers with large petals (2nd sheet)
- A map of the forest with the location of various fantastic beasts, plants etc. including the Fern Flower (3rd sheet)

Note: We believe that the optimal group size for all co-creation sheets is 3-4 children. Therefore, we recommend that you form groups of 3-4 children before beginning to co-create the story. All the co-creation sheets described below take place within a group of 3-4 children.



1st sheet: WORDS OF WISDOM FROM A PARENT

To prepare the children, read aloud this extract to each group of children:

Jacek was a dreamer. When he looked up at the sky, he saw more than simply clouds but ships ready to leave, dragons to defeat and castles to conquer. Seeing that he never played with his siblings, Jacek's mother worried about him. One day she told him...

1. First, give one shadow character to each child of the group. Ask them to imagine they are the character they have been assigned.
 - a. Ask the child with Jacek's character why it is good to be a dreamer
 - b. Ask the children with the family characters why it is important to be present for friends and family
2. Then, invite the group to play a little scene with their shadow character, as if they were the characters of the story.
3. Based on their little scene, ask the group to write down the corresponding dialogue between Jacek and his parent. (in direct, indirect or free speech).



What may result is something like:

Seeing that he never played with his siblings, Jacek's mother worried about him. One day she told him, **“Jacek, why don't you play with your siblings? They believe that you don't appreciate them.”** Jacek answered, **“I love them very much, but I like to observe the clouds. I like that they can tell stories by becoming ships or dragons.”**



2nd sheet: WORDS OF WISDOM FROM THE LADY IN THE FOREST

One of Jacek's dreams was to find the Fern Flower. One evening, as he was walking through the Forest, he came across a woman carrying with her a Fern Flower. Seeing Jacek look at her with awe, the woman said...

Tell each group of children:

Imagine that in the middle of the story, you are the lady who found a Fern Flower and meets Jacek looking for it in the forest. How would you talk about the good things the Fern Flower is capable of while warning Jacek about its dangers?

1. Draw two flowers making sure the petals are big enough to write into. Divide the group in two:
 - a. Ask one group to write on each petal a reason why the Fern Flower is powerful
 - b. Ask the other group to write on the other flower why it is dangerous
2. Then, invite the two groups to compare their flowers. Based on the words they choose, write down the corresponding dialogue between Jacek and the lady. (in direct, indirect or free speech).



What may result is something like:

Seeing Jacek look at her with awe, the woman said, **“The fern flower is a curse! It gave me beauty and riches, but I lost my family and friends. Be very careful with it!”**



3rd sheet: WORDS OF WISDOM FROM JACEK

Years later, you meet Jacek in the forest. He looks older and lonely. You ask him for help to find the fern flower. Jacek tells you ...

For this part you can use a map tool. To create the map, draw the contours of the forest (it must have an entrance!) on a large sheet of paper and ask the children to imagine what lies inside the forest - **apart from** the Fern Flower - and to draw these elements - **including** the Fern Flower - where they want on the map.

Imagine that you are now Jacek, what do you tell someone inquiring about the Fern Flower?

- give the true directions to the Fern Flower
- give the wrong directions to the Fern Flower
- tell her/him your own story with the Fern Flower
- ____ (your own idea)



Write down the corresponding dialogue between you and Jacek. (in direct, indirect or free speech.)

What may result is something like:

You ask him for help to find the fern flower. Jacek tells you, **“I thought the Fern Flower would make all of my dreams come true, but it turned my life into a nightmare. If you still want to look for it, go past the cottages, turn left at the bridge and enter the cave in the forest”**



4th sheet: WORDS OF WISDOM FROM YOU

Jacek surprises you with his story. He then asks, “Why could you possibly want the Fern Flower?” You tell him...

Imagine that you still decide to go after the Fern Flower, what do you hope to do with it and why?

- to make other people’s desires come true
- to get everything you ever wanted
- to comfort Jacek
- ___ (your own idea)

Write down the corresponding dialogue between you and Jacek. (in direct, indirect or free speech.)



What may result is something like:

He then asks, “Why could you possibly want the Fern Flower?” You tell him, **“I will use the Fern Flower to bring world peace and heal all of the sick people in the world.”**

