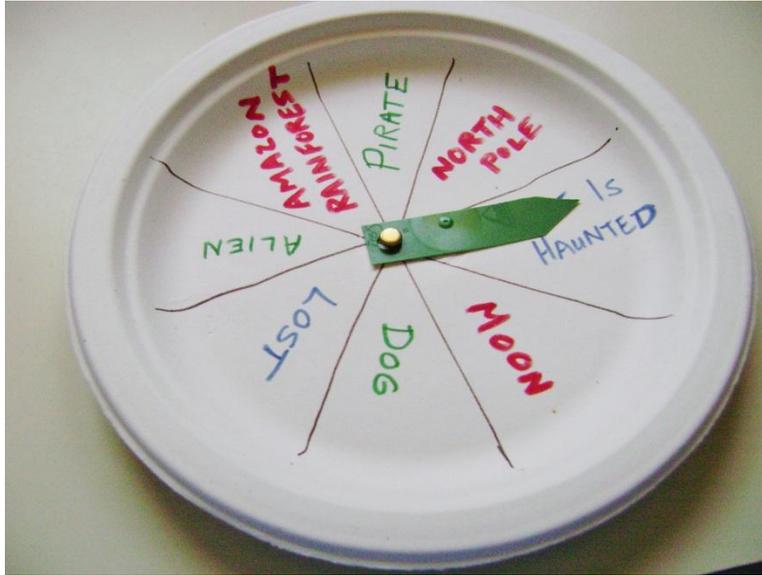


Make Your Own “Story Wheel”

Spin the Story Wheel once...twice...three times to get a different mix of story-starters every time you want to write a story!



Supplies

- Paper plate
- Ruler
- Colored markers
- Hole punch
- Split leg paper fastener
- Scissors
- A thin piece of plastic like the lid to a margarine tub or a coffee can



Making Your Story Wheel

Use a marker and the ruler to draw lines that divide the plate into eight sections. When you are done, the plate should look like a pie that has been cut into eight pieces.

Cut a pointer out of the plastic. One end should be pointed like an arrow and the other end should be straight. Use your ruler to measure so that the pointer is about 3 inches long and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide.

Use the hole punch to make a hole in the pointer. The hole should be punched in the straight end of the pointer.



Use the split leg fastener to poke a hole in the middle of the plate. Then use the split leg fastener to attach the pointer to the plate. Attach it so that the pointer is a little loose and the pointer can spin on the fastener.



Front

Back

Brainstorm a list of story-starters. They can include:

- Characters (people or creatures); examples include “pirate,” “dog,” and “alien”
- Settings (places); examples include “North Pole,” “Moon,” “Amazon Rainforest”
- Conflicts (problems); examples include “lost,” “shrunk in a shrinking machine,” “house is haunted”

Choose your eight favorite items from your list. Include a mix of characters, settings, and conflicts. Write one of your favorites in each of the “pie pieces” on your plate.



Using Your Story Wheel

Get out a paper and pencil or turn on your computer. Spin the Story Wheel’s pointer by flicking it with your finger. Write down the item the pointer lands on. It will be part of your story! Spin another two or three times. Write a story using all the items you land on.

Once you have finished your first story, spin again to get a whole new set of story-starters. You can write a different story every time you play with the Story Wheel!