



TELL IT METHODS

Older Elementary

Here are the *Tell It* methods for the quarter so you can use any *Tell It* method at any time.

So Much Drama

Act out a lighthearted telling of the story as it is read by an adult narrator.

1. Select an actor for each role on the script.
2. Don't practice or rehearse. It's totally okay for kids to be hearing the script for the first time as you read it for the performance.
3. Actors stay offstage until their character is mentioned. As you read the script, pause when moments of action or dialogue are required.
4. If an actor misses a cue, gently repeat the line until the actor follows the script. Keep it light-hearted.
5. When reading dialogue an actor repeats, say the line with emotion. For example, say whispered lines with a whisper voice, and angry lines with an angry voice.
6. If you need to give direction, keep it in the context of the storytelling method. Stay in character as the narrator.

Don't: "Say that again with more excitement."

Do: "Then he said it again like a cheerleader!"

7. Everyone applaud after the drama!

Word Word

Take turns telling the story one word at a time.

1. Sit in a circle around a table or on the floor. Briefly discuss what happens in the beginning, middle, and final scene of the passage.
2. Have one person begin the story with one word. Going clockwise, each person takes a turn adding one word to build on the story. It might sound like this: "God. Created. A. Very. Bright. Light."
3. Keep going around the circle until the story is complete.
4. The first time through will be pretty methodical. On the second try, encourage kids to add emotion and drama to their voice when needed.
5. Try it as often as you like, building confidence, detail, and fun each time.
6. Tip: With new kids who aren't comfortable participating, just let them observe.
7. Challenge: Have each kid tell two words of the story. This is much trickier than it sounds!





Symphonious

Without speaking, dramatically act out the story to a musical track.

1. As a class, choose a piece of music from the *Eureka! DVD* or *CD* that best fits the passage.
2. Quickly discuss the elements of the passage to be acted out—beginning, middle, end.
3. Select actors for each role. You can even select kids to act as props if needed.
4. Listen to the song picked in Step 1. Listen from beginning to end and think of ways to silently act out the passage. Share ideas when the song ends.
5. Play the track again—pausing it when needed—and try out different ideas. Even kids who aren't actors can give ideas!
6. The silent acting should communicate the story and match the emotion *and* tempo of the music. Random dancing around won't cut it. Imagine creating this for an audience that doesn't know this passage.
7. Try to make the drama last for the entire song. That's part of the fun!

Rewind Forward

Re-enact the story both forwards and backwards.

1. As a class, discuss how to best divide the story into three main scenes. Discuss what happens in each scene. What characters are in each scene? Who is speaking? What action is happening? Don't write a script. Spoken lines are improvised. Choose actors for the story.
2. As the leader, you hold the power of the Rewind/Forward "button." When you say "Forward" the actors begin acting out the story. When you say "Rewind," they should immediately begin acting out the story in reverse from that point in the story—walking backwards, talking backwards (or backwards jibberish), etc. When you say "Forward" again, they must stop and resume acting out the story normally from that point.
3. Once actors are in place, call "Forward" to begin. Actors will act out the story.
4. Give the actors a moment to get the story rolling, then call "Rewind." Actors will begin to rewind the story. After a few seconds, call "Forward." Continue this pattern randomly until the end of the drama.



Action Statues

Create an array of one-person statues to capture the action of each scene.

1. Ask for a volunteer to come to the front of the class.
2. Read the first section of the ***Eureka! Bible Passage***.
3. As a class, decide on the main character of that section. Then decide on a pose that best describes what that character is doing and/or feeling in the section.
4. Have the volunteer assume the decided pose and freeze in place.
5. Call up a new volunteer and resume steps 2-4 with the next section of the ***Eureka! Bible Passage***. Continue until all sections have a statue in place. Challenge the statues not to move while new statues are added.
6. Once all statues are in place, read through the story. Statue may “unfreeze” and take a seat after their section is read.
7. Got a small class? Reduce the number of statues by combining sections, or assign more than one statue to each volunteer.

Doodle Mix

Create a symbol for each section of the passage and put them in order.

1. Beginning with the first section of the ***Eureka! Bible Passage***, ask for ideas of symbols that represent that section (for example, a sun, a moon, etc.).
2. Invite a student to draw on an index card a symbol that represents that section. Do the same for each section of the passage.
3. Mix up the completed cards and place them face down in the middle of a table. Mix in 3-4 blank index cards to serve as decoys. Invite kids to gather around the table.
4. Start a timer and say, “Go!” One student will choose a card and turn it over. Moving clockwise around the table, each student will turn over a new card and attempt to place it in the correct order. Students can verbally help one another as needed. Blank cards are discarded.
5. Once the cards are in the right order, stop the timer and record your time. Try again 2-3 times to see if the class’s speed improves.



Scene Snap

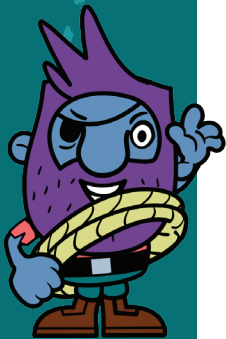
Re-create a snapshot of three different scenes from the passage.

1. As a class, discuss how to best divide the story into three main scenes to illustrate the entire passage.
2. Make a note of what will be in each scene so you don't forget.
3. Select someone for each role needed. You can even cast some actors to act as props.
4. Begin with the first scene. Kids who aren't acting can give ideas for positioning the actors and evaluate the scene to make sure it's accurate.
5. After final tweaks and the scene is set, take a picture of the scene with a phone or tablet.
6. Move on to the next two scenes. Use the same actors for the primary roles, but swap out prop actors if more kids want to join in.
7. After scene snapping your three scenes, look over the pictures together. Celebrate your success!

Mold Me

Kids will "sculpt" their peers into three different scenes from the passage.

1. As a class, discuss how to best divide the story into three main scenes.
2. Choose 2-3 kids to be the "clay" and 1-2 kids to be the "sculptors." The clay stands up front, hands to their side, with as little facial expression as possible. Sculptors stand next to them.
3. Discuss the first scene—what is happening in this scene and what pose the characters should be in. As ideas are decided upon, sculptors position the clay, moving arms and legs. They can even adjust facial expressions. Clay should allow themselves to be sculpted and hold those positions until moved.
4. Two important rules for sculptors:
 - Be gentle and respectful of the clay actors.
 - Do not create poses that are uncomfortable to hold for a long time.
5. Once a scene is created, applaud, snap a picture, and move on to the next scene.



Blink

Play a charades-style game with two people at a time.

1. Ask for two volunteers to participate.
2. On an index card write down the letter of one of the sections of the passage. Show this letter only to the volunteers.
3. Let them look at page 3 of their **Discovery Guide** so they can review the section. Give the volunteers 15 seconds to plan their drama. They cannot talk or make noises during their drama.
4. Give them 15 seconds to perform their drama. Keep time on a phone or clock so everyone can watch the time tick away.
5. The drama must last the entire 15 seconds. Even if the section can be acted out in less time, the actors must find a way to make it last the full 15 seconds. For an added twist, prohibit slow motion acting. This forces the kids to find creative ways to fill up the time.
6. After the drama, have the class say what section was being acted out.
7. Repeat steps 1-6 until each section of the passage has been dramatized.

