

Digesting a Story



STILLS FROM VIDEOS SHOT BY STACY BODIN'S STUDENTS.

In this second-grade language arts unit, students help create edible props for a story setting, write an original group story, act out and film their story, create five original test questions that correlate with their story, and finally have a viewing party with the edible props as snacks. This project targeted a number of Louisiana grade level expectations and benchmarks.

We developed our stories around holidays, but they could be organized around any topic with edible or non-edible props and scene elements. Our edible props for a Christmas story included gingerbread people, mini marshmallows and powdered sugar for the snow, brownies for trees, candy, and cake decorations. For Easter, we used chocolate bunnies, marshmallow candies, and other Easter candies.

Once the settings were built, I asked students to create a story with a setting, characters, a problem, and a solution. I gave each of the groups story maps with a block of space for each of the four parts to record their brainstorming session. The groups then typed the information in story form on the classroom computers. Using the writing process, the students proofread and edited their word processed work.

Once the stories were completed on the computers, copies



were made and students mapped each other's stories by identifying the four parts (setting, characters, problem, solution). We used printed story mapping tools from Read Write Think (<http://www.readwritethink.org>). Finally each group typed five questions to test one another on each group story. Questions were factual in nature, such as, "Who was the main character?" or "When did the story take place?"

Students used their props and scripts to act out each story, which the kids videotaped using a digital video camera. I transferred the digital stories to a DVD that we shared with parents during Technology Week.

Find the complete lesson with story map, rubrics, and pictures at <http://www.vrml.k12.la.us/dozier/EYE/EYE04-05/eyefeb05/tech/Digesting201/digestinglessonplans.htm>.

Stacy Bodin is a second grade teacher from Dozier Elementary in Erath, Louisiana. Born with a hearing disability, Bodin feels that just as her hearing aids are tools that have helped compensate for her hearing loss, computers are tools that help students meet individual academic needs and challenges.

By Stacy Bodin