



Daniel Pink's Story Suggestions

- Write a mini-saga (extremely short stories, just fifty words long).
- Enlist in StoryCorps (record your own with a family member or friend).
- Whip out a tape recorder.
- Visit a storytelling festival.
- Experiment with digital storytelling.
- Read great stories.

Daniel Pink's book, *A Whole New Mind: Moving from the Information Age to the Conceptual Age*, can be ordered online at www.davisart.com.

The ART of the Story

"Story is just as integral to the human experience as design." —Daniel Pink

My life has always been full of stories. When I was a child, the book-mobile stopped in front of my house every other week and my siblings and I always checked out the limit of books. The only time I have been able to stay up all night was to finish reading a book because I couldn't wait until the next day to find out how the story ended. Fiction is still my favorite escape, and I am especially drawn to artwork that tells stories. My elementary students are always eager to tell me stories about their artworks, stories that deepen my understanding of them.

"Story represents a pathway to understanding that doesn't run through the left side of the brain."
—Daniel Pink

In *A Whole New Mind: Moving from the Information Age to the Conceptual Age*, author Daniel Pink considers story as one of six essential right-brain-directed senses or aptitudes that are needed for success in our contemporary world, a time he calls the "Conceptual Age." Pink believes that now that

facts and information are immediately available online, the ability to place these facts in context and to deliver them with emotional impact is more important. In other words, the ability to tell "an emotionally compelling narrative has become an essential aptitude." How better to do so than through art? This month we offer many forms of storytelling through art and invite you and your students to enter our first digital storytelling contest.

StoryCorps

Before we bought our own Airstream trailer, I had noticed that StoryCorps, a national project to inspire and help people to record their own personal stories, was using an Airstream as a portable recording booth. For these stories, two people record their conversation, often answering questions or remembering a special time.

StoryCorps stories are broadcast on National Public Radio and archived at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. There are two station-

ary StoryBooths in New York City and two traveling Airstreams, called MobileBooths. You can make an appointment at a StoryCorps near you or check out StoryCorps at www.storycorps.net and listen for ideas you can use for recording your own students' stories (about art) on podcasts and digital movies. (Daniel Pink's book also recommends StoryCorps.) A simple do-it-yourself guide (www.storycorps.net/participate/do-it-yourself_guide/) is very helpful for making podcasts with your students.

Please keep sharing your students' stories of art. We will all be richer for it. ☺

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