



# WordGirl Super Storytelling!

## Lesson Summary

**Estimated Time: 35-40 minutes**

What makes a good story? One place to learn is by watching PBS KIDS where stories come to life—like in WordGirl! Engaging characters, unique settings, and crazy problems to overcome are just some of the elements of good storytelling. From battling with brothers to catching criminals, WordGirl brings exciting and interesting stories to her audience.

Students will try their hand at storytelling by using WordGirl images as a pattern and for inspiration. Get the super story juices flowing as your students mix up characters, settings, and plots for their own super story creations.

## Big Question

**How can I make interesting stories?**

### This lesson will help students to:

1. Understand the concepts of character, setting and plot.
2. Learn and use new vocabulary.
3. Cooperatively work and create a story together.

### WordGirl Words

*character*

a person within a story

*setting*

the place a story takes place

*plot*

the action or problem within a story

### Media Resources

*WordGirl*, "Becky Knows Best"

### Materials

- Three bowls or baskets, for drawing out cards
- WordGirl Storytelling printable:
  - Characters
  - Settings
  - Plot (or obstacles, problems—keep these simple and let students elaborate)
- Classroom or WordGirl Vocabulary list (Examples include: ignore, colossal, vegetarian, ultimate, and tempt.)
- Paper
- Pencil
- Dictionary
- Chart Paper
- Markers

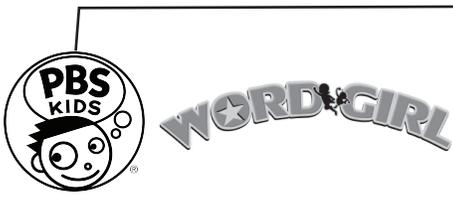


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# WordGirl

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### Lesson Activity

#### Introduction

1. Begin the lesson by inviting students to listen to a story. Tell them that as they listen, you want them to think about the different parts of the story that make it interesting. Share the *WordGirl* story from the episode, "Becky Knows Best." If you have additional time, show clips or the entire episode. Invite students to respond to the question: *What makes this story interesting?* As students share, write down on chart paper any comments that relate to character, setting, or plot/problem.
2. Tell students that today they are going to be writers—not for a school writing contest—but for the PBS KIDS show *WordGirl*! They are going to use the elements of a good story to write and share their own episode.

#### Instruction

1. *WordGirl* and all good writers know that a good story has at least three parts known as story elements: **character**, **setting**, and **plot**. Define these terms using the chart paper notes from the *WordGirl* story.
  - a. Character
  - b. Setting
  - c. Plot
2. Explain to students that you brought *WordGirl*'s power to help with their stories! Inside the three baskets are ideas that represent characters, settings, and plots/problems that they can use in their own *WordGirl* creation. In groups, you will pull from each basket to choose a character, setting, and plot/problem for your group's story.
3. Introduce *WordGirl* Super Storytelling printable. Walk students through the different sections.
4. Model for students by pulling out the first set of characters, then setting, then plot, and demonstrate how you would fill in the different sections of the graphic. Once the basic outline is finished, students can write their story—either as a narrative or in *WordGirl* style with dialogue, depending on the ability and age of your class.
5. Divide students into groups and invite them to choose their character(s), one setting, and the plot/problem. Allow time for students to plan their stories, write them up, and then share them with the whole class.

### Extend the Learning

1. Use the attached storyboard graphic to invite students to draw or cut and paste *WordGirl* pictures to accompany each part of their story. Display the storyboards.
2. Add vocabulary words to their stories. Using current classroom lists, or words from *WordGirl*, challenge students to incorporate these words into their stories just like *WordGirl* does!

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