

# THE STORY BEHIND THE MASK

## Introduction

This lesson provides the opportunity for the integration of maskmaking and language arts. Here, students will have the opportunity to write the story of their mask. This may be fictional or non-fictional depending upon the preferences of the student.

## Materials

Finished mask  
Pencils, pens  
Writing Paper

## Procedure

1. Introduce to students the idea of writing the story of their mask. Provide the following questions to help them begin to brainstorm what their mask's story might be:
  - \* Who does your mask portray?
  - \* Is your mask a fictional being? Is your mask something that exists in the world today?
  - \* What emotions does your mask represent or portray? Is it happy? Is it sad? Is it angry? Is it lost or confused?
  - \* Does your mask represent good, evil or both?
  - \* How would your mask change the person who wears it? What effect would it have on that person? What would the wearer turn it into?
2. Now that students have begun to think about what their mask represents, guide them to begin writing the story of their mask. Tell students that the story can be fictional or non-fictional. If their mask represents a real person in their life, they may want to write the true story. Perhaps their mask represents how the cultural tradition of La Pastorela has changed today. They may want to write more of a report-style story of how and why La Pastorela has changed, and the significance of their mask in light of this change. Students can also write a purely fictional story of their mask.
3. Take students through the writing process—drafting, editing, revising, and final copy.
4. Allow student volunteers to share their writing with the class, displaying their mask as they read (they may even want to wear it as they read).
5. Display student masks and stories for all to see.