Did you watch *Sesame Street* when you were younger? Do you have a knack for acting and learning? Are you gifted at using your voice in creative ways? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, this may be the project for you!

This project is designed to bring a sense of collaboration and reality to our learning. We intend to make real-world connections right here *in our very own school*. Middle schoolers will build their collective, leadership skills while mentoring younger students. First graders will showcase their academic knowledge. Together, these groups will review for the upcoming state assessment—the EOG! How cool is that?!

If you're interested, take a moment to examine the perks of this unique project!

Middle Schoolers, Do This…

First, choose a topic:
- Reviewing Text Features
- Reading & Fluency
- Characterization
- Book Talks/Reviews
- The Magic of Storytelling
- Manners/Character Education

**STANDARDS:**

**First Grade**
- **RL.1.7**—Use illustrations and details in a story to describe its characters, setting, or events.
- **RL.1.9**—Compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in stories.
- **RL.1.1**—Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
- **RI.1.5**—Know and use various text features (e.g., headings, tables of contents, glossaries, electronic menus, icons) to locate key facts or information in a text.
- **L.1.1.F**—Use frequently occurring adjectives.

**Seventh Grade**
- **RL.7.3**—Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact (e.g., how setting shapes the characters or plot).
- **RL.7.6**—Analyze how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of different characters or narrators in a text.
- **RI.7.5**—Analyze the structure an author uses to organize a text, including how the major sections contribute to the whole and to the development of the ideas.
- **W.7.4**—Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
Step Two:

Now, get organized by doing the following:

- Establish a **purpose** for your show. (What do you want your show to do?)
- Establish an **audience**. (What is the age range of your audience?)
- Set a time limit. (All shows should be no longer than four (4) minutes.)

Who is on your crew? (Who is taking care of the behind the scenes stuff for you?)

- Puppeteer & script writer
- Camera operator/ mic setup
- Floor manager/ set designer
- Sound effects, music, and audio person (First grade talent)

Step Three: It’s Time to Write

Please focus, for we don’t have a lot of time!

1. Get into research mode. Find an episode of Sesame Street to pattern your show after. (Everyone who needs a script must do this, and everyone’s ideas count.)
2. Write a script that includes specific stage directions. Use language that first graders can understand.
4. Don’t be afraid to add age-appropriate expressions and humor to your work.
5. Practice talking to your younger partner.
6. Puppeteers, practice using a different voice from your regular one, and make it easy.
7. Practice pausing for effect and letting your information sink in.
8. Practice your show’s beginning and ending.
9. Have fun and make it beneficial for you and your younger partner!

Step Four: It’s Time to Meet Your Partner!

Good, googa mooga! Here comes the super, fun part!

Once your script has been approved by your teacher, the following will happen:

- Have a conference with your teacher to determine which student fits best with the purpose of your segment. Please think about this ahead of time! (i.e. Are you looking for a boy or girl? Should the student be energetic or quiet?)
- Next, once we have a list of students, you will be given a special pass to go and collect your partner!
- Give them a copy of your script and explain it to them. Please keep it simple!
- If your partnership works, practice, practice, practice!
- Set a date for recording and return your partner safely to his or her class!
Explanation of Topics

Reviewing Text Features:
For this segment, middle schoolers will review text features with a first grader!
You must be on top of your game, Scholars! You must be aware of such features as glossary, table of contents, bold words, headings, labels, pictures, and captions! If you choose this topic, you will create a fun way to engage your young audience with the use of your puppet. Will you set your script up like a game show? Will you find a book and ask your young scholar to identify the parts? Will you discuss types of texts that have text features and go on a journey to find examples? Inquiring minds want to know! Make sure the method you choose to use is highly effective and purposeful!

Reading & Fluency:
For this topic, the goal is to help your first grader appreciate all of a book’s wonderful parts! Decide whether your text will be fiction or nonfiction.

Suggestions:
• Help your young reader practice using expression while reading.
• Discuss the importance of reading at the right pace and practice doing it.
• Explain how respecting punctuation marks helps the reader and audience.
• Highlight comprehension while adding a little grammar. For example, ask the student if they can find some nouns in the story. Let your partner tell how they know it’s a noun.

Characterization:
This topic offers so many magnificent choices for you! Pick a book a first grader might love! Choose a book with dominant characters whose personalities really stand out!

Suggestions:
• Interview the younger student to see how well they understand a specific character.
• Gently challenge the scholar to use appropriate adjectives to describe the character!
• Ask the student if they’ve ever come across similar characters in other works.

Book Talk/Book Review:
This is an exciting opportunity for you to create a news segment! You and your scholar should select a book to talk about! You have total creative license with this as long as you keep it simple! Engage your scholar in a conversation that allows him/her to share his/her opinions on a popular book. You may want to tease them a little by incorrectly adding details to the book which would allow them to laugh and correct your “mistake.” Please know in advance how many questions you want to ask your partner. Remember, their attention spans are not as long as ours!
The Magic of Storytelling:
For this topic, reading takes center stage! Invite your scholar to help you present a really good book to your audience. How will you grip your audience and have them on the edge of their seats? How will you share the reading between the two of you? Since your setting is crucial to your success, what kind of mood do you intend to establish for your book reading session? Will your setting be abstract and zany, or will it be comfortable and cozy?

Next, begin reading the book with your scholar after you’ve…

- Examined the beauty of the cover!
- Highlighted the title!
- Establish a reason to read and find out!
- Read the story but don’t finish it!
- Leave it as a cliffhanger, so others will want to check the book out!

Manners/Character Education:
A book about manners is in our collection of books. If you choose this topic, you and your partner will teach your audience a special lesson about manners! Limit the amount of manners to one or two. Use your creative license as a writer to create a script that is purposeful and easy to understand. When you’re done, there should be no doubt in your audience’s mind as to what is right and what is wrong, regarding manners.

Puppetry & Prose Rubric