



# A Story That Takes Place in the Sky

## *Ideas for Implementation*

### Brainstorming/Pre-Writing Ideas

#### Sky Walk

- Get your gear on and head outside where there's a clear view of the sky!**

Guide young writers through an outdoor observation and ask questions to prompt examination of their surroundings.

**SAY:** "Look up. Let your eyes move and really use them to see everything that is above you."

After a minute or two of observation where you continue to encourage them to move their eyes to different places,

**ASK:** "What is the first thing you saw?"

This will probably elicit "the sky." A follow-up question could be: "What things are a part of the sky? Can you name words to describe it?"

Repeat the exercise several times so that an opportunity is given to see many things. Once back inside, create a [mind map](#) to record observations and connect ideas.

## Add-on for the Sky Walk

- Expand your Sky Walk experience indoors by imagining the sky at different hours and in various seasons and weather.

**SAY:** “Close your eyes or look down. Imagine it is (summer, midnight, sunrise, raining . . . ) In your mind, look up at the sky. Let the eyes in your mind see everything that is above you.”

**ASK:** “What kinds of things do you see? Use more words to tell me about them. Does this sky remind you of anything?”

Repeat several times so that an opportunity is given to imagine the sky in many settings and add ideas and observations to your mind map.

## Look Up! Popcorning

- This activity quickly activates thinking and accesses prior knowledge.**

Arrange yourselves in a circle (or a pair), then take turns saying words that answer each of these questions:

- What do you see when you look up at the sky?
- What do you feel when you look up at the sky?
- What does the sky remind you of?

When you’ve run out of words, take a few minutes to write down favorite or memorable responses on a whiteboard or poster.

## Ideas for Writing

### General approach

- ASK** them to choose a couple of their favorite words or descriptions they’ve collected to use in their response to the prompt.
- RESPOND** to the prompt several times, each time with a new two sentence combination.
- SHARE** a favorite response or two, and discuss if there are describing words that could be added that would help a reader picture their thoughts more clearly.

### Figurative Language Add-Ons

- Alliteration - Is there a place for words that begin with the same sound to create flow and add interest to the description?
- Simile - Could you use like or as to turn one of your descriptions into a simile to help a reader picture what you’re saying?

## **Choose a favorite and write it on the submission form**

- Feel free to illustrate!
- Add adult narration for clarity as needed for emergent and pre-emergent writers.