



Description of Reading Promotion Activity/ Action <b><u>STORY SACKS AT SCHOOL</u></b>	
Reaches disadvantaged pupils / families	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes but not only
Multilingual activity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Action especially for	<input type="checkbox"/> girls <input type="checkbox"/> boys <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both
Involves parents	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no
Utilizes ICT	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no
Objective (s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To engage children in reading through open and authentic activities.</li><li>• Children to interact within reading communities, playing, communicating, and discussing book- and reading-related issues.</li></ul>
Age level (s)	4 - 12
Preferable number of participants	5 - 20 children
Duration	40'
Setting, materials, and preparation	<p>Materials will depend on the supporting materials that relate to the chosen book:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Copy of the selected book (Big Book version if possible)</li><li>• A bag (inexpensive canvas sack that can be decorated)</li><li>• Contents of story sack (different for each book)</li></ul> <p>Materials needed to support activities may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>» soft toys/puppets of the main characters</li><li>» costumes/props to support the story</li><li>» pictures/photos of related events</li><li>» an audio tape/CD of the story being told</li><li>» a language based game or activity</li><li>» a related non-fiction book</li><li>» craft and activity ideas.</li></ul> <p>Setting: classroom or library</p>



<p>Step -by-step description</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decide on a suitable book to base the story sack on. This will depend on the age group of children and may be their favourite story or a topic that the children have a particular interest in.</li> <li>• Teacher or librarian reads the story and carefully decides on what objectives s/he wants the activities to achieve. Considers the theme, the characters, the setting, the sounds, the smells and the language used. These activities can be outlined on an “activity card” which is laminated and stored in the bag, and may be useful for the user of the story sack.</li> <li>• Some general activities may include:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Talking about the story and using the props to retell the story</li> <li>» Asking children questions about the characters and the plot</li> <li>» Finding out more about the people and places in the story by looking at non-fiction books</li> <li>» Drawing a story map of the plot to help with re-telling the story.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Teacher/ librarian models the use of the story sack with the children.</li> <li>• Teachers/ librarians use the story sack props to engage children in the telling of the story and in related language activities.</li> <li>• As pupils become familiar with the story and the resources, they may use the story sack independently.</li> </ul>
<p>Notes to reading promotion facilitator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consensus on which stories will be used at each level and which text will be used</li> <li>• A team of people who have great craft skills is needed to put the story sacks together</li> <li>• Start small – 2 or 3 books a year</li> <li>• Annual audit/replacement of contents as required</li> <li>• Variation of textures used in tactile materials.</li> </ul>
<p>Suggested follow-up actions/ activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Older children may wish to make story sacks for their favorite book.</li> </ul>
<p>Acknowledgements</p>	<p>Adapted from an action developed by Shanahan N.S., Orwell Park, Templeogue, Dublin 16.</p>



Sources	PDST. (2011). "Our Story." Dublin.
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