

# Lesson 1: Stories and Scratch



## By the end of the lesson, students will be able to

- ✓ Listen to a story and reflect on the elements of a story
- ✓ Learn to use sprites and backdrops in Scratch
- ✓ Able to create scenes from stories

## Things to do before the class

- ✓ Read the student guide and engage with the given activities.
- ✓ Make sure all the computers that the students will use have decent internet connection.
- ✓ Select a short children's story that can be read in 5 to 10 minutes. Get multiple copies of the book from the school library. You can get free access to many wonderful stories for children in diverse languages at [Let's Read's website](#).
- ✓ Read the lesson plan and watch the videos linked inside. These videos are meant for teachers to help them learn Scratch as they run these lessons for their students.



## o. Elements of a story (For the teacher)

Stories are part of children's everyday lives. People around us are telling stories all the time - recounting, sharing, explaining, or just to make each other laugh. These days, television, youtube channels, and social media platforms have been added as places where we tell stories.

Every story has a way it begins, unfolds (middle), and has an end - this sequence of what happens is called the **plot**. Every story has **characters** that are the subjects of the plot. The **setting** is the context, place, time, and climate of the story. The plot, characters, and setting are the elements of a story.

Before starting the lesson, you can briefly talk to students about their prior experience with stories. Ask these questions:

- ✓ What is a story? What type of stories have you listened to or read?
- ✓ What makes up a good story for you?
- ✓ Think about some of your favorite stories. What was the most interesting part of the story?

Note: This activity was designed by Srijanalaya as a collaboration between Karkhana Samuha and Srijanalaya for project entitled CoDES. The copyright of these portions of the lesson remains with Srijanalaya.



## 1. Engaging with story (30 mins)

Ask students to keep their computers turned off during this activity. Make sure you are located in a place where every student can see and hear you as well as see the picture book. Make sure you are comfortable.

### Predicting the story (5 mins)

Begin with the cover and the title of the story book. Ask these questions to get them thinking.

- ✓ What do you see? Who do they think are the main characters in the story?
- ✓ Where is the story set? What do they think will happen in the story?

### Reading the story (15 mins)

Once a few students have shared their predictions about the story, ensure that all the students are aware that when you read the story, they are quiet. If you ask a question you will pause or if they have a question they can raise their hand. Make sure that as you read the story, you share the images so that every student has time to have a good look at the images.

### Quick discussion (10 mins)

At the end of the story, ask the students a few questions to get some quick answers. This is also a good time to clarify any things that were new for the students or parts of the story you want to emphasize. For a way to see how much the students understood the plot, characters, and the setting you can ask questions such as:

- ✓ How was the story the same or different from what you thought in the beginning?
- ✓ What happens in the story? What was your favorite part of the story and why?
- ✓ Who was a character you identified with?

Sometimes there are specific contexts that need to be understood by everyone. In order to make this decision read the story beforehand and think about what special clarifications your students will need.



## 2. Getting ready (20 mins)

Ask students to do the following tasks:

- ✓ Turn on the computers. If they are working on desktop computers, ask them to switch on the monitors too.
- ✓ Open any web browser on the computer (for example, Chrome, Edge, Firefox etc.)
- ✓ Access the student guide pdf
  - ✎ Ask students to type this URL in the address bar: [cd8.notion.site](https://cd8.notion.site)

Ask students to look at lesson 1 of the student guide and go through the **Exploring Scratch** (page 2) section. There's a link on that page that'll take them to the Scratch website. Ask them to click on it. Let them explore sprites and backdrops with the help of the guide.

Note: Students might struggle to type the URL correctly. Ask some of your colleagues and students familiar with web browsing to help you with this part of the lesson. Write the URL on the whiteboard for students to see.



### 3. Creating scene from story (30 mins)

Ask students to go through the **Let's create scenes from stories**(page 3 and 4) sections in the student guide. In this activity students will create scenes from the story they just heard.

Allow students to create the scenes they want. There's no right solution here and the idea is to let students engage meaningfully with sprites and backdrops. The pictures and hints in this section will guide students.

#### Watch these videos to learn more:

- ✓ For a short, fun introduction to Scratch: : [Intro to Scratch](#)
- ✓ To learn about sprites and backdrops: [Scratch 3.0 - Sprites and Backdrops](#)

If students are having difficulty with getting started, ask these questions to support their thinking:

- ✓ What was your favorite scene from the story?
- ✓ What were some of the most important scenes in the story?
- ✓ Imagine a scene before the story started, or after the story ended. What might it look like?

Some students will complete their work before their peers. Engage those students with **More things to explore** section. Encourage students to show each other the pictures of their scenes.



#### 4. Reflection (10 mins)

Ask students to go through the **Let's reflect** section in the student guide. These reflective questions will help them think about their learning experience. Ask them to discuss any two questions with their group member. Before you end the class, ask a few students to volunteer and share their reflection with the entire class.

Note: Reflecting on their learning experience helps students notice things, about the content as well as their experience, they otherwise would have missed. It's also important for students to read or hear the reflections of their peers. This opens them up to new perspectives and gives them more questions and insights.