

# TEACHER'S GUIDE



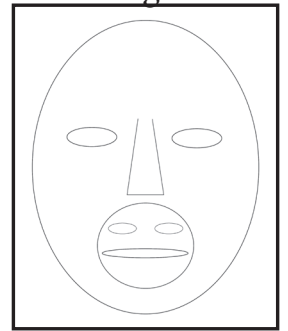
The “My Amazing StoryFace” Drawing and Writing Activity Sheet is an arts-in-education exercise designed as a classroom activity to follow ***Christopher Agostino’s StoryFaces*** assembly programs.

This activity gives students multiple strategies for creating an original, personal story, along with a unique experience in visual storytelling, as they create a story starring themselves, first through a drawing exercise, and then as a written story meant to be told. For the drawing, students will use the accompanying Drawing Form with a big face that has a little face on the mouth — just like the image I create for the animated stories in my performances. (see ***The Amazing Face Video*** on YouTube)

The students start by drawing a “story” on the top part of the big face, then put themselves into the story by drawing their picture onto the smaller face at the bottom. After doing the StoryFace drawing they write the story out, then complete the process by showing the drawing while telling the story.

**Grade Levels:** In Elementary schools, grades 2 and up have been able to complete the StoryFace drawing and a simple written story in a single workshop session. In Middle and High Schools the concept of placing a portrait of yourself into an illustrated story can go further as a visual art project by incorporating other media, digital art, animation, etc.

Drawing Form



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## Some Guidelines:

A -- I have the students do simple pencil sketches for their StoryFaces, with no coloring, so the focus remains on the content of the story and not on the quality of the drawing. In subsequent art classes, the drawing could be the basis for a mask or other more finished work of art.

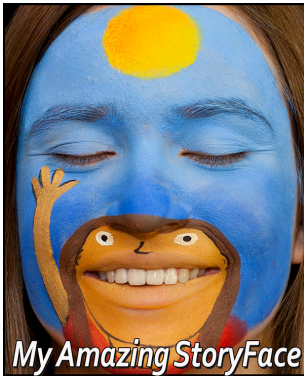
B -- Students should start by drawing the story idea first, before they start drawing the picture of themselves on the little mouth -- because the story they come up with may change how they depict themselves.

C -- They should write the story out after the drawing. For most students, the visual process should drive the language process (though for some it may help to come up with a title first.)

D -- I tell students to just draw the things in their story as best they can -- not to worry how good they look -- because they will be telling the story as they show the drawing, they'll be able to explain the images. (Their drawing ability should not be a limit to their imagination.)

E -- Getting a student to tell a story about themselves through images and words is the goal of the activity. Some students are more original than others, some are not -- and that's ok. I'm ok with kids using familiar tales (like “Little Red Ridinghood”) or scenes from movies, video games, etc., or if they re-create the stories they saw in my performance -- as long as they make themselves the central character in the story.

F -- To complete the experience, the students should tell the story, perhaps in their regular class, and I usually suggest they can bring the StoryFace drawing home to tell it to a family member. If you display the drawings, include the written stories as well.



# My AMAZING STORYFACE

## • ACTIVITY SHEET •

You are amazing — and so is your face.  
You can be anything — and so can your face.

Create your own Amazing StoryFace in which you are the star:  
a story about your dreams, your wishes, your nightmares or just something fun.  
Then share your story in your own Show and Tell!

1 — **USE** the Drawing Form and **START** by drawing your story on the top part of the big face. You are going to be the star of your story, so make it about your dreams and wishes about what you want to be or do, or maybe some place you'd like to see or an adventure you'd like to have. Or put yourself into a story you already know, like a folktale or a story from a book or my show -- *hint: don't worry if you don't know how to draw something for your story, since this is a story to tell while you show your picture, you will be able to say what everything is. Just draw it as well as you can.*

2 — **THEN**, put yourself into the story by drawing a picture of yourself onto the little face at the bottom of the big face -- *hint: you can draw yourself like you really look, or you can change how you look to fit into the story -- so if your story is about being an astronaut, you might draw yourself in a spacesuit.*

3 — **Write the story after you draw it.** Once you've completed the StoryFace drawing, give your story a title and then write it out on another piece of paper-- *hint: when I'm writing a new story to tell, I try to imagine how I might tell it to a friend, and it helps me to read it out loud sometimes as I'm writing.*

4 — **Finally, SHOW and TELL the story** to a friend, your class or at home to your family — show them your drawing while telling them your story. Stories are meant to be shared, and they grow in the telling — so don't be surprised if your story grows and changes as you tell it to people. ***A Story isn't Finished until it's Told.***

*Here are some examples of Amazing Faces I have painted:*



ASTRONAUT IN SPACE



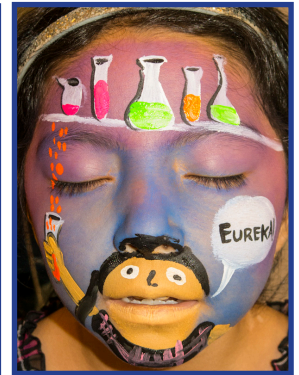
WORLD FAMOUS CHEF



ARTIST PAINTING ANIMALS



PIRATE



SCIENTIST



EASTER IN NEW YORK



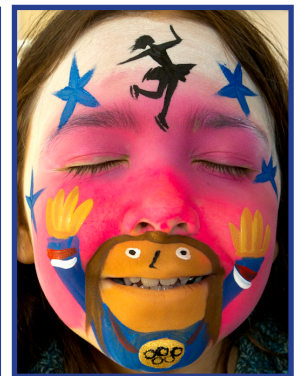
CHASED BY MONSTER



BECOMING A MONSTER



OPERA SINGER



OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL

Christopher Agostino's StoryFaces

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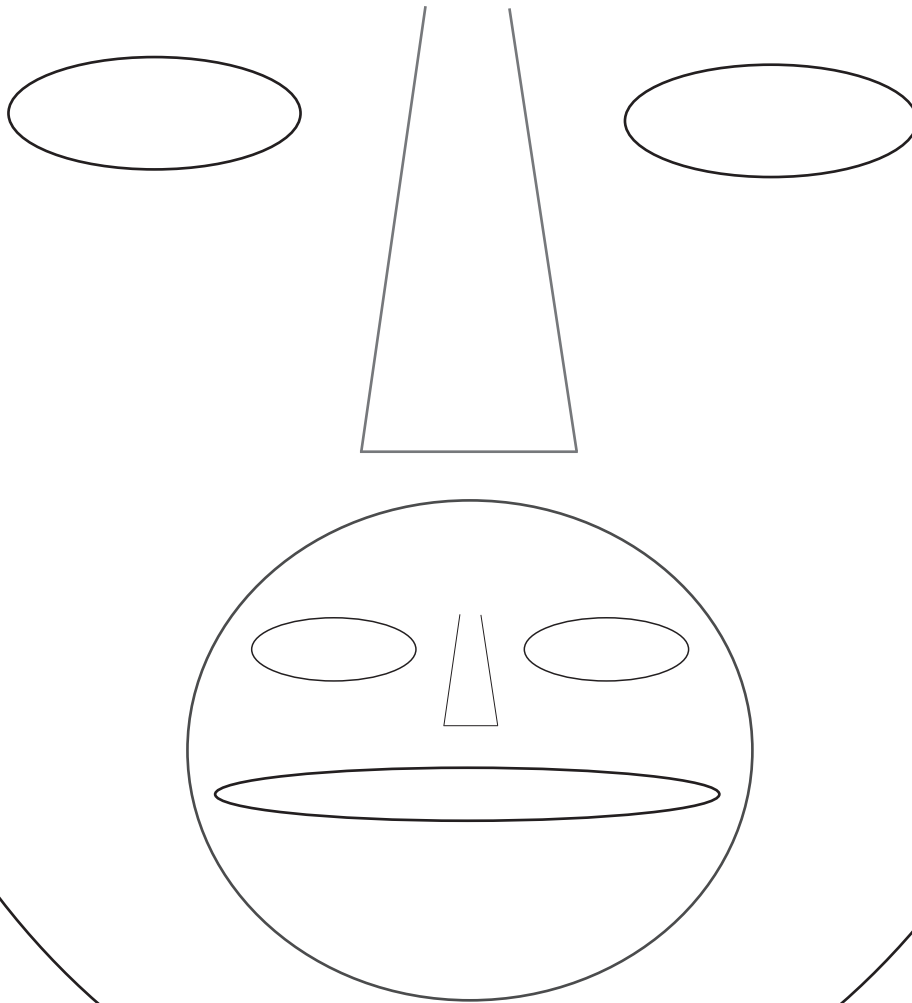
# My AMAZING STORYFACE

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ STORY TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

**FIRST** - START BY DRAWING  
YOUR STORY ONTO THE  
BIG PART OF THE FACE



HAVE FUN AND  
BE CREATIVE!



**SECOND** - DRAW  
YOURSELF INTO THE  
STORY ON THE LITTLE  
FACE AT BOTTOM



**THIRD** - WRITE  
THE STORY OUT  
ON THE BACK  
OR ON ANOTHER  
SHEET OF PAPER

**WHEN YOU ARE READY SHOW AND TELL YOUR STORY TO SOMEONE!  
A STORY ISN'T FINISHED UNTIL IT'S TOLD.**

# My AMAZING STORYFACE

**TITLE OF YOUR STORY:** \_\_\_\_\_

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

TO FINISH YOUR AMAZING STORYFACE, "SHOW AND TELL" YOUR STORY TO SOMEONE.  
TELL THEM YOUR STORY WHILE SHOWING THEM YOUR DRAWING.  
STORIES ARE MEANT TO BE SHARED.