**Title:** What would you do if…?

**Appropriate grade level:** Grades4-8

**Brief Description:** This classroom activity gives students an opportunity to develop ideas for narrative writing. It also demonstrates the appropriate way to follow simple story structure. It allows children to use drawings to stimulate their imaginations and to help them generate story ideas, which helps engage students who see writing as something that is boring and always challenging.

**Materials Needed:** Pencil, blank paper, writing paper

# Steps for implementation

1. Have students fold a blank piece of paper in half. Ask students what they would do if they were invisible for 24 hours. Share ideas and probe students to add details to your suggestions.
2. Tell the students that, now that they have some ideas, they are going to make a drawing of four things that they would do if they were invisible for 24 hours. Students should use pencil or one color to make the drawings of their ideas, one in each box. The purpose of the drawings is to help the students remember their ideas without having the pressure of having to write them down immediately.
3. Now that the students are excited about the possibilities, they are ready to start writing. Begin with an introduction, where students write about how they become invisible. The body of the story will be made up of descriptions of their four pictures. The ending of the story should be an explanation of what happens when they become visible again

**Evaluation:**

Have the students read their stories out loud. Their peers can make suggestions about other details they could add, and each child could work on revisions for a final “class publication,” a compilation of all of the stories.

**Comments/Tips:**

Have “authors” include colored versions of their drawings in the final versions of their stories for illustrated stories.

**Source:**

Bos, C.S. & Vaughn, S. (2002). *Strategies for teaching students with learning and behavior problems.* Boston: Allyn and Bacon.