



SHOW AND TELL

Symbols help us communicate meaning in our everyday lives. In this activity the students are asked to share an important event from their lives using an object as a symbol of their experience.

- 1 Recall an important event that has shaped the person you are today.
- 2 Think of an object you could use as a symbol to describe this event to your classmates. Bring this object in for your show-and-tell presentation. (If your object is too big to carry, find an image of the object to display during your presentation.)
- 3 Prepare to tell your story about this important event by using your object as a symbol. Select at least four ways you can connect the physical qualities of your object to the important event. Here are some different ways to think about your object as a symbol:
 - How does the shape of the object relate to your important event?
 - How does the color of the object relate to your event?
 - How about the texture?
 - If your object has writing, numbers, or marks on it, how might these relate to your event?
 - If your object functions in a particular way, how might this functionality relate to your event?
- 4 Prepare a 2-minute show-and-tell presentation that “shows” your object” and “tells” the story of your important event.



Once everyone has presented, process the experience with these discussion prompts:

- How did using a symbolic object help you describe your important event?
- What creative ways did you use your objects as symbols in your storytelling?
- What do you think needs to happen to transform an everyday object into a meaningful symbol?
- What symbols are important in your everyday life? Why are they important? Explain by using examples.



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