

Lesson Title: *The Strangest Morning: Meeting Harlem the Tooth*

Grade: 1

Duration: 45-60 minutes

Learning Objectives:

- Students will improve their reading comprehension and narrative sequencing skills.
- Students will explore themes of responsibility and friendship through a fun, imaginative story.
- Students will engage in creative expression through drawing and storytelling.

Materials:

- Copies of Chapters 1, 2 and 3 from *Teeth Don't Play Basketball* (either printed or read aloud).
- Chart paper and markers.
- Paper and crayons/colored pencils for drawing.
- Tooth character cut-outs (optional).
- Projector (optional, for a group reading or presentation).

Lesson Structure:

Introduction (5-10 minutes):

1. Activate Prior Knowledge:

- Begin with a brief conversation about teeth: "Who has ever lost a tooth?" "What do we do to take care of our teeth?"
- Ask the students if they've ever heard of a *talking* tooth, and what they think a tooth might say if it could talk.

2. Introduce the Story:

- Explain that today, we are going to meet a very special tooth in a fun story. Share that it's about a boy named Liam who meets a talking tooth named Harlem.

Story Time (10-15 minutes):

1. Read Aloud:

- Read Chapter 1 (*Tip-Off*), Chapter 2 (*The Unexpected Teammate*) and Chapter 3 (*Fast Break Fail*) aloud to the class, using voice variation to make it exciting (e.g., adding wonder when describing Harlem). Pause for any reactions or questions.
- Alternatively, if students are able, they can take turns reading short parts aloud.

2. Discussion Questions:

- After reading, ask comprehension questions like:
 - "Why was Liam excited to wake up?"
 - "What did Liam see on his bed?"
 - "What did Harlem the tooth look like?"
 - "How do you think Liam feels when he sees Harlem?"
- Engage the class by encouraging them to make predictions: "What do you think is going to happen next with Harlem and Liam?"

Activity 1: Story Sequencing (10-15 minutes):

1. Group Discussion:

- As a class, discuss the events of Chapter 1 and write them on chart paper in the order they happened. Ask guiding questions like:
 - "What was the first thing that happened when Liam woke up?"
 - "What happened after Liam saw Harlem in the mirror?"
- Help students organize the events into the correct sequence.

2. Individual or Pair Work:

- Provide students with a simple worksheet or have them draw their own 4-part comic strip where they sequence the key events in the story.

Activity 2: Tooth Character Drawing & Writing (15-20 minutes):

1. Introduction:

- Tell students they are going to create their own character inspired by Harlem the tooth. Ask, "What would your tooth look like if it could talk and move? What would it say?"

2. Drawing:

- Give each student a piece of paper and have them draw a picture of their own "talking tooth" character. Encourage creativity — let them give their tooth a name and unique features.

3. Writing:

- Students can write (or dictate, depending on their skill level) one sentence about their tooth, using a prompt like, "My tooth's name is _____. It likes to _____."

Closure (5-10 minutes):

1. Sharing:

- Invite a few students to share their drawings and sentences with the class.
- Optionally, hang the drawings up in the classroom as a display.

2. Reflection:

- End with a brief discussion: "What do you think it would be like to have a tooth like Harlem? How would you take care of it?"
- Reinforce the idea of responsibility and how taking care of something (like Harlem) can help it take care of you in return.

Differentiation:

- For students who need extra support: Offer drawing templates of a tooth and help them with writing by providing sentence starters or scribing their words.
- For advanced students: Allow them to write a short dialogue between themselves and their tooth, imagining what they would say to each other.

Assessment:

- Observe participation during discussions and story sequencing activity.
- Review students' drawings and writing to assess comprehension and creativity.

This lesson uses *Teeth Don't Play Basketball* to encourage students to engage with a fun narrative while also introducing themes of personal responsibility and oral hygiene in a way that's relatable to young children.