



Action Figure Cards

Writing activity

For this activity, kids will create action figure cards based on a favorite trickster.

Individual: each child chooses their favorite trickster(s) and works independently on their card(s).

Supplies

- Pencils, pens, and art supplies: colored pencils, markers, crayons
- Printouts of the two action figure card templates in this packet (one copy of each page per child)
- Scissors

If you do not have access to a printer:

- Index cards, 4" x 6" or 5" x 8" (8 per child)
 - Star stickers (20 stickers per child)
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Let's get started

If you have access to a printer, print out the card templates (after page 8 in this packet). Print enough copies so each child has one set of the front side and one set of the back side. Cut the sheets into individual cards along the dotted lines and glue the front to the back. Each child should have 4 trickster cards. If you don't have access to a printer, distribute index cards and star stickers.

After reading a collection of trickster tales, ask kids to write down four of their favorite tricksters and to start thinking about how they would describe each trickster. Things to think about:

- Name of the trickster
- What your trickster looks like
- Country or location where this trickster is likely to be found



Trickster Tales

Action Figure Cards

- Top skills
- Best trick ever played
- Biggest nemesis (enemy)
- "Power rating" for cleverness, speed, imagination, humor ...

Next, kids will create their sets of illustrated action figure cards. On the front, each trickster card will have the name of the trickster at the top and an original full-color drawing on the bottom. On the back, kids will write out short answers to the prompts, including a "power rating" that indicates how smart, funny, imaginative, and fast that character is — 5 stars is the highest rating. Color in the stars with yellow, red, or another bright color.

If the kids are using index cards, you'll need to prompt them with each element of their action cards. Use the star stickers for the power rating.

Tell the kids to use their imaginations in drawing their tricksters so that they really express their unique and interesting personalities!

Sharing our work

Once the trickster action cards are finished, let kids present their cards to the group, and talk about the characters. Invite the kids to trade cards if they like, or you can make color copies of the cards for everyone to share.

Try this!

Perform It: Have kids act out a favorite trickster tale or invent a new story to act out or tell, using the components of the tale to structure their skit or oral story. Encourage costumes from the dress up-box, scenery made from materials found at home, or recyclables.

Build It: If you have play-dough or modeling clay, have the kids make a 3-D model of their trickster action figure. This could inspire some creative re-telling of the trickster stories!

For more reading, writing, and learning resources, visit www.StartWithABook.org



The **TRICKSTER**

A large rectangular frame with rounded corners, designed to hold a character sheet. At the top of the frame is a smaller, horizontally-oriented rounded rectangular frame, intended for a name or title. The entire frame is defined by a double-line border.

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Best Trick Ever Played:

Biggest Nemesis:

Power Level:



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