

Folded Story Circle

Host card | 3-8 players | Approx. 15-20 minutes | 1.0.0

Write one part of a fictional adventure, fold it out of sight, and pass the page. Unfold the finished story together.

Bring and set up

One sheet and pencil per player; Enough table space to fold and pass paper.

Use imaginary characters and places. Avoid writing about a guest or somebody's private life.

Every player begins with a sheet. The host reads the same prompt to everybody; each person writes, folds just that line out of view and passes clockwise.

How to play

1. Complete the six prompts in order. Keep earlier writing hidden, but leave enough blank paper for the next writer.
2. Move all sheets at the same time. With fewer than six players a sheet will return to an earlier writer; that is fine.
3. After the last prompt, pass once more, unfold and read the story in order. A player may ask the host to read their sheet.

A complete six-part story

A curious robot / visited a floating library / to borrow a map / but the shelves began to sing / so it asked a friendly cloud for help / and everyone found the way home. The parts need not fit this neatly to form a playable story.

Three-part session

1. Character and place: First write an imaginary character; fold and pass. Then write where the character went; fold and pass again.
2. Goal and surprise: Write what the character wanted; fold and pass. Then add an unexpected obstacle; fold and pass.
3. Help and ending: Write how the character tried to solve it; fold and pass. Write what happened at the end; pass, unfold and read.

Offer support

Let a child draw a character or dictate a short phrase. The host can read each prompt twice and wait until every sheet is ready.

If something goes wrong

If someone sees an earlier line, continue without restarting. If passing gets out of step, check which prompt each sheet needs before writing again.

Finish together

Read every story that its writers are comfortable sharing. Let the group choose a title for one of them.

Party Puzzle Parcel | Free host materials | Adult-led session; time is a planning estimate.

Rules reference: Project Gutenberg 31186; consequences. Original modern host instructions.