

# Story Boarding

Use story boards to break down goals into actionable tasks, support problem solving efforts, and build visionary thinking skills.

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**GOAL OR INTENTION:** Family snorkeling vacation  
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**CURRENT REALITY:** No current plans or specific ideas of where to go.  
**ACTION:** Brainstorm with family about types of snorkeling they want to do and how long we can be gone.  
**ACTION:** Research options within a one week time constraint that have warmish water in January.

Photo by Bruno Berra from Pexels



**ACTION:** Find packages for trip which include hotel, airfare, and car rental.  
**ACTION:** Packing and final planning for trip.  
**FINAL GOAL:** Snorkeling in amazing location.

## IN THIS ISSUE

### Story Boarding

### Problem Solving

Visually represent the steps you can take to get to your desired solution.

### Visionary Thinking

What is your desired goal? Be specific and paint a vivid picture.

## Story Boarding

Story boarding is a visual way to break down a goal or intentions into actionable tasks. Think of it as cartoon strip planning. The “comic” or fun aspect is intentional as problem solving can be fun with the right tools.

Create a six or eight block set of empty boxes. Filling in the last box first, draw your desired outcome. Then draw your current reality in the first box.

You will now have four or six spaces to fill with the steps it will take to reach your goal. You may want to make a list of the things you think you will have to do and check for gaps. Then you can put them in order. The process of drawing these tasks, by engaging more senses, will embed the ideas deeper in the memory and make them more personal.

Hang up your story board as a reminder of the tasks you are working on. My example above was done in Canva.



Create your own at Storyboard That

## Problem Solving

Problem solving is something we all do. Whether you are six years old or sixty you will have challenges to overcome every day. When we can visualize the result, we want and then break down the tasks to get there, we build confidence and agency. Teaching this process to our children at an early age can bolster their self-confidence building more effective adults.

Representing the steps to solving a problem in a visual format makes them accessible for young children and adults alike. Drawing them by hand incorporates more senses, developing a vivid image and making them personal can create intrinsic motivation.

Start with small, well-defined goals. Like how to accomplish a chore (i.e., loading the dishwasher) as an example of how to break down a goal. Then work on something more personally meaningful and give your child space to create their own steps. They may surprise you with their innate problem-solving abilities.

## Resources for Story

### Boarding:

- Paper, pencils, and pens
- [www.Mural.co](http://www.Mural.co)
- [www.Canva.com](http://www.Canva.com)
- [www.storyboardthat.com](http://www.storyboardthat.com)

# Visionary Thinking

Visionary thinking, or being able to see what things could be, instead of how they are, is an essential leadership and life skill. If we want to change our situation, we have to be able to envision a new future.

Asking ourselves (or others) questions like “What if” or “How might you” can lead to thinking up new possibilities. Encourage the use of imagination or dreaming, and deferring judgement for a time will enable you to come up with all sorts of possibilities. Make these images of the future specific and vivid.

After ten or more options have been imagined and recorded, then you can begin to gently mold those options into real solutions by asking “how might we . . .?” Try to look at the positive potential of the options before you find ways to overcome the concerns. Often the best solutions can be found amongst the wackiest of ideas.



## Thinking Skills developed when Story Boarding:

- Visionary thinking
- Ideational thinking
- Imagining
- Problem solving
- Goal setting
- Tasking setting
- Creating an order of operations