

# ***Brainstorming for New Year's Eve***

Lesson Objective: Students will learn about brainstorming, decision-making, and teamwork by reading Chapter 15 and applying the S.T.A.R. strategy. They will use their strengths to come up with creative ideas for celebrating New Year's Eve as a group, ensuring everyone is heard

Materials Needed:



- Copy of Chapter 15, "Brainstorming for New Year's Eve"
- Pencils and markers
- S.T.A.R. Strategy Poster
- Home Connection Letter

Introduction to the Topic (10 minutes)

Greeting Outline:

- Welcome the children and have them sit in a circle (if applicable)
- Begin with a brief discussion (topic of lesson).

## **Greeting and Circle Time Teacher Script**

### **1. Warm Welcome and Opening Discussion:**

- "Today, we're going to learn some important skills that help us work *together* and make *smart decisions*. These are skills that great leaders, kind friends, and problem-solvers use every day!"

### **2. Discussion Starter**

- Let's start with the first one: **Brainstorming**.  
Brainstorming means coming up with *as many ideas as we can*, without saying no to any of them right away. It's like opening up a treasure chest of possibilities! When we brainstorm, we don't worry about whether something is a 'good' or 'bad' idea yet—we just *let the ideas flow*. The more ideas, the better!
- Now let's talk about **Teamwork and Inclusion**.  
When we work in a group, we all have something special to share. Inclusion means we make sure *everyone's voice is heard*. It's not just about getting our way—it's about *listening, being fair, and working together* to come up with a plan that includes everyone. We're stronger when we include each other!
- And finally, we'll use the **S.T.A.R. Strategy** to help us make great choices. Let me break it down:



- **S** is for **Stop** — Pause and notice what’s going on.
- **T** is for **Think** — Think about your choices and how they might affect others.
- **A** is for **Act** — Choose the best action.
- **R** is for **Reflect** — Look back and ask, ‘Did it work? Would I do anything differently next time?’

This strategy helps us slow down and make thoughtful decisions—even when things feel tricky.

So today, whether we’re sharing ideas, working as a team, or solving a problem, we’re going to practice **Brainstorming**, **Inclusion**, **Teamwork**, and the **S.T.A.R. Strategy** to help us be our best selves!”

Read the Chapter (15 minutes)

Story Time Outline:



- Read Chapter 15 aloud. Pause at key moments to engage students and make sure they are following the story.
- Ask questions during key parts of the story.

## Story Time Teacher Script:

### 1. Prepare the Students for the Story:

- "Today, we're going to learn about how brainstorming and decision-making can help us plan an event where everyone feels included. The friends in our story—Ollie, Harriet, Bennie, Sammy, Buzz, and Betty—are trying to decide how to spend their New Year's Eve together. They each have different ideas, but they want to make sure everyone enjoys the night. As we read, think about how the friends use brainstorming and teamwork to make their decisions."
- (Read the chapter aloud, pausing at key moments to ask questions and engage the children.)

### 2. Read the Chapter with Emphasis on Key Moments:

- **While reading**, pause during key moments.
- **Ask Questions:**
  - Why does Harriet want to do something exciting like a snowball fight?
  - How does Sammy feel about Harriet's idea? What does he suggest instead?
  - What role does Ollie take in the group's decision-making process?
  - What does Betty suggest to help solve the disagreement?
  - What strengths does each character bring to the brainstorming process?
  - Why does Grandma remind the friends to brainstorm before making a decision?
  - How does the group make sure everyone feels included in the final plan?
  - What is Bennie's suggestion to balance both fun and relaxation?
  - Why is it important to evaluate the different ideas before making a choice?
  - How do the friends feel once they have made a plan for New Year's Eve?

## Chapter 15: Brainstorming for New Year's Eve

It was New Year's Eve, and the holiday break was coming to an end. The snow outside Ollie's house glistened under the soft light of the setting sun, and inside, the warmth of a crackling fire filled the room where Ollie, Harriet, Bennie, Sammy, Buzz, and Betty were gathered. They had been spending their winter break together, enjoying sledding, hot chocolate, and long, snowy walks through the park. But now, with New Year's Eve just a few hours away, they had a new challenge to face: deciding how to spend their evening.

"I can't believe it's almost New Year's!" Harriet exclaimed, bouncing on the couch. "We need to make this night epic!"

Buzz, always full of creative ideas, grinned. "I'm all for doing something totally different. Maybe we could build the biggest snow fort ever and have a New Year's snowball fight!"

Sammy, sitting nearby, shrugged. "That sounds fun, but maybe we could do something more chill. Like a movie marathon or playing board games by the fire."

Bennie, who loved balancing fun with calm, nodded. "I like the idea of a cozy night too, but it's New Year's Eve, so maybe we can find a way to make it special."

Betty, ever the problem-solver, tapped her chin thoughtfully. "It sounds like we all have different ideas about what we want to do. How about we brainstorm a bit before making a decision?"

Ollie, always the planner, smiled at Betty's suggestion. "That's a great idea. We can use brainstorming to come up with lots of options, then choose the one that feels best for everyone." The group gathered around the coffee table, ready to put their brainstorming skills to the test.

Grandma, who was reading in the corner, smiled as she overheard them. "Remember, when you brainstorm, the key is to come up with as many ideas as possible before making a decision. Don't judge the ideas right away, just let them flow."

Harriet, full of energy, started them off. "Okay, first idea: snowball fight. It's New Year's Eve, so it's gotta be something exciting."

Buzz raised his hand like they were in school. "And we could build a snow fort and have fireworks!"

Sammy smiled. "Or we could have a quieter night, like playing board games and drinking hot chocolate. Maybe we could write down our New Year's resolutions and share them."

Ollie, always thinking ahead, added, "We could also stay up late and watch the countdown on TV. We could have snacks and watch fireworks from inside if it's too cold."

Betty, ever the practical one, suggested, "What if we combine some ideas? Like we could play outside for a bit, then come in for a movie marathon or games?"

Bennie, who liked to keep things balanced, nodded. "That way, we get the best of both worlds—something fun and exciting, but also something cozy and relaxing."

The group continued to brainstorm, and soon they had a long list of options:

1. Snowball fight and snow fort building
2. Watching fireworks
3. Movie marathon with popcorn
4. Playing board games by the fire

5. Making New Year's resolutions
6. Watching the New Year's countdown on TV
7. Drinking hot chocolate and telling stories

Once they had all the ideas written down, Ollie took the lead. "Okay, now that we've brainstormed, let's evaluate the options. What do we want to prioritize, fun and action, or something more relaxing?"

Harriet, bouncing in place, grinned. "I'm all for fun and action! But I don't mind chilling out later in the evening."

Buzz nodded in agreement. "Yeah, I want to be outside building the fort, but I like the idea of watching the fireworks too."

Betty, ever practical, pointed out, "It's cold outside, so maybe we do the snowball fight and fort-building first, then come inside to warm up with hot chocolate and games."

Bennie smiled. "That sounds like a good balance. We can do something active, then something more relaxing as the night goes on."

Sammy, always thoughtful, added, "And we can end the night with the countdown on TV. We'll all be cozy inside by then, and we can share our resolutions."

The group agreed, feeling satisfied with their decision. They had used their personal strengths, Harriet's energy, Buzz's creativity, Ollie's planning, Betty's problem-solving, Bennie's balance, and Sammy's thoughtfulness, to brainstorm and evaluate their options.

As the sun began to set and the first stars appeared in the sky, the friends bundled up in their coats and headed outside for the first part of their New Year's Eve celebration. They laughed as they built the biggest snow fort they could, and their snowball fight echoed through the quiet night.

Later, as they came inside to warm up, they gathered by the fire with mugs of hot chocolate.

They played games, told stories, and watched the countdown to the new year. And as the clock struck midnight, they shared their New Year's resolutions, feeling closer than ever.

Grandma, watching from her chair, smiled at them. "You all did a wonderful job tonight. By brainstorming and evaluating your options, you made sure everyone was heard and had a part in the plan. That's the best way to start a new year—working together and using your strengths."

As the fireworks lit up the sky outside, Ollie, Harriet, Bennie, Sammy, Buzz, and Betty sat together, proud of the way they had spent their evening. They knew that no matter what challenges the new year brought, they had the tools—and each other—to face them with creativity, teamwork, and thoughtful decision-making.

And with that, they welcomed the new year, ready for all the adventures it would bring.

### 3. Post-Chapter Teacher Script

- **Teacher:** "You know, Ollie and his friends learned that brainstorming, using their strengths, and working together can help in decision-making."

#### 4. Post-Chapter Questions

Ask these questions to help students reflect on the chapter and connect it to their own experiences:

- How did the friends use the brainstorming process to come up with ideas?
- Why do you think it was important for each friend to share their thoughts?
- What did you notice about how the friends worked together to make a decision?
- How does combining different ideas make the group's plan stronger?
- Why did the friends feel more satisfied after working through the decision-making process together?
- What role did Ollie's planning play in helping the group brainstorm effectively?
- How did Betty's problem-solving skills help resolve the disagreement?
- What can we learn from the way the friends used their strengths in the story?
- How might you use brainstorming to plan your own New Year's Eve?
- What would you do if you were in a group that had different opinions like Ollie and his friends?

Do an Activity (20 minutes)

- Students will practice ....

#### Activity: Group Brainstorming (20 minutes)

##### 1. Introduce Activity

"Alright class, today we're going to do a fun and creative activity that builds on what we saw in the story — remember how the characters came together to make a plan for New Year's Eve that included *everyone's* ideas?

Now it's your turn!

You'll be working in small groups to imagine your *dream New Year's Eve event* as a class. It can be anything — a dance party, pajama movie night, talent show — whatever your group thinks would be fun, relaxing, and fair for everyone.

Before we get started, let's talk about **how brainstorming works**:

1. Each person shares **one idea at a time**.

2. Write **every idea down** — even the silly or wild ones! You never know where a great idea might come from.
3. Once you've got a bunch of ideas on your chart paper, then you'll go back and talk about **the pros and cons** of each one.
4. Your final step is to **decide as a group** on one plan that balances fun *and* relaxation, just like the characters did in the story.

Remember, the goal is to **let the ideas flow**. Don't say 'no' right away — even if something sounds a little out there. And make sure everyone has a chance to speak and be heard. That's what great teams do."

## 2. Activity Instructions

- Divide students into small groups.
- Give each group chart paper and markers.
- Task them with brainstorming ideas for how they would like to spend a group New Year's Eve event. Remind them to let ideas flow without judging them right away, just like the characters did in the story.

Steps for Brainstorming:

1. Each group member suggests one idea at a time.
2. Write down every idea, even if it sounds wild or silly.
3. After brainstorming, evaluate the ideas together by discussing pros and cons.
4. Decide as a group on a plan that balances fun and relaxation, just like in the story.

"Remember, the goal is to brainstorm without judging the ideas right away. Once we have all the ideas down, we'll go back and talk about which ones we like best. Make sure everyone has a chance to share their thoughts, just like the friends in the story."

### 5. Reflection (10 minutes)\*\*

Hand out the Reflection Worksheet. Give time for students to complete.



## Wrapping it Up

### Wrap Up the Lesson (5 minutes)

#### 1. Review and Reflection Overview:

- After students complete their reflections, invite volunteers to share what they learned from their reflections.
- Encourage students to continue using the strategy in their daily lives

## Review and Reflection Teacher Script



#### 1. **Gather in a Circle for Reflection:**

- “Let’s all come back together in a circle.”

#### 2. **Closing**

- “Fantastic work, everyone. I saw so much teamwork and creativity today. Now let’s take a moment to reflect on how that went. Think about your group’s process and how you worked together.

Let’s talk about it:

- **What did you learn about working together as a group?**
- **How did it feel to brainstorm and include everyone’s ideas?**
- **What strengths did your group members bring to the process?**

These are the kinds of skills that help us not just in class, but in life — *thinking together*, *listening*, and *making space for everyone’s voice*. Great job today!”

## Home Connection Letter

#### 1. **Sending Information Home:**

- “Before you go, I have a letter for you to take home that explains what we learned today in class.”
- Hand out the letters as the children prepare to leave.

### Parent Letter

#### Sending Information Home:

- Provide each child with a letter to take home to their parents explaining the lesson.



Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Today in class, your child participated in a lesson based on Chapter 15 of \*Ollie's Superpower Squad: Fourth Grade Challenges\*. The focus of the lesson was on brainstorming, decision-making, and teamwork.

Students learned how to work together by brainstorming ideas for a New Year's Eve event and making sure everyone's voice was heard. They practiced listening, evaluating ideas, and using their personal strengths to make decisions as a group.

Encourage your child to share what they learned about brainstorming and teamwork, and maybe even ask them to help plan your next family event!

With Gratitude,



## Reflection Worksheet: Working Together to Plan Our New Year's Eve Event

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



1. What did your group decide to do for your New Year's Eve event?

\_\_\_\_\_



2. What was one idea \*you\* suggested during brainstorming?

\_\_\_\_\_



3. What is one idea someone else in your group suggested that you really liked? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_



4. How did your group make sure everyone got to share their ideas?

(Circle all that apply or add your own!)

- We took turns speaking
- We listened without interrupting
- We wrote down all the ideas
- We encouraged quiet group members to share
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_



5. How did it feel when others listened to your idea?

☐ Great! ☐ Okay ☐ A little left out ☐ I wasn't sure

Why? \_\_\_\_\_



6. What is one thing your group did really well during this activity? What could your group do even better next time you work together?

\_\_\_\_\_