

# CLAY LANGUAGE

Merging pottery skills  
with language development

## Theme: MASKS



### Overview and Purpose

**C**onsider the pros and cons of wearing a mask.

**L**ist different types of masks (eye masks, costume masks, superhero masks etc.) and which ones are "pro" safety and can help keep you healthy.

**A** unique mask can be made with clay.

**Y**OU unique ideas can be shared.



### Suggested Materials

- \* polymer, air dry clay or homemade clay divided into small cubes, approximately an inch
- \* wire tool, string or twine-if opting to have students cut clay as part of the activity
- \* pottery tools
- \* pasta maker
- \* household/kitchen gadgets
- \* canvas cloth
- \* mask(s) or pictures of masks
- \* Laminated mask stencil  
(masks can be found at the end of this activity and copied and laminated for use)

\* Used with permission by Rebecca Rubin Seligson  
Author of "The Mysterious Missing Book"



## Setup

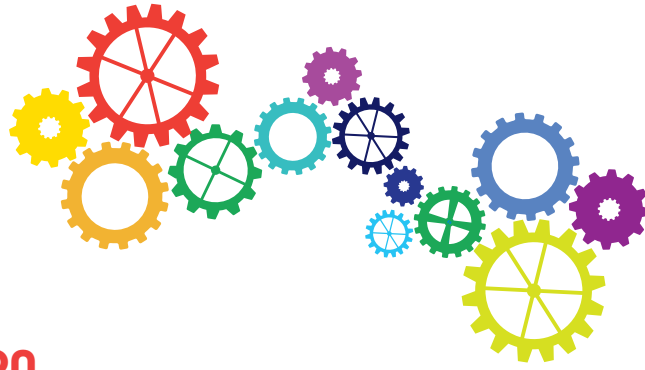
- \* Cover table with canvas.
- \* Place pottery tools, gadgets and masks on table.



## Divergent Discussion

- \* Show pictures and examples of masks.
- \* What is a mask?
- \* Why do we wear masks? (Holiday?)
- \* What are some different types?
- \* Where do you see people wearing masks?
- \* What materials are used to make masks?
- \* Can you make a mask out of clay?
- \* What benefit would there be?





## Clay in Motion



- 1 Provide two inch cubes of clay or offer opportunities for students sitting across from each other to cut clay with a wire tool or string. Talk about what actions are being taken and what items are being used throughout the process.  
(Air dry clay is being used in this photo).



- 2 Demonstrate rolling and flattening the clay with a rolling pin and talk about what you are doing step by step.  
(Homemade clay is being used in this picture)

- 3 Students can cut the clay into desired shapes using trimming tools.

- 4 Allow time for clay masks made from air dry clay or homemade clay to dry  
(1-2 days)





- \* Polymer clay and a pasta maker can be used to create additional unique and fun superhero masks.
- \* Press polymer clay at the top of a pasta maker to flatten.
- \* Kitchen gadgets, items from the environment and pottery tools can be used to create a unique look for each and everyone.





Superheroes might wear masks like these.....



# Mask Stencils

Print, laminate and cut out for future use:

