

## QUESTIONS

The easiest way to get kids to tell stories is to get them to ask questions. Five questions in a row and they can have the framework of a story, to either keep as is, or flesh out later. Be it real or fantasy.

1. Introduce yourself/your character
2. Present a problem and/or opponent.
3. Show some emotion.
4. Overcome problem.
5. Finish.

These following words are golden, and can take a child anywhere:

IF

WHAT IF

IMAGINE IF

WHAT

WHAT WOULD

WHAT COULD

COULD I

WOULD I

Here are just a few examples of **THE IF GAME!** Don't let the students get bogged down. Do lots. Make it fun, make it silly, make it quick. If they get stuck on a topic, provide another.

\*\*\*\*\*

If I Was Bored

**If** I was bored I'd walk through school wondering what everyone's super powers were.

**If** my teacher had super powers what would they be?  
To spot unicorns? Smell lies?

**If** I was bored I'd wonder what super power the bully had?  
Maybe they could make toys talk, like in the movies? Maybe they could give super wedgies? Or flick super boogers at me?

**If** they said: "I can read your mind" I'd say; "Oh-ho!"  
Then they would give me a super wedgie, flick some super snot, and laugh their super mean laugh!

**If** I had a super power I wonder what it would be? Nothing obvious, I wouldn't want to be like the bully. Maybe I'd give them a super hug?

If the bully attacked me with super wedgies, I'd just hug them and hug them and hug them, and they'd try and beak free and I'd hug them...

Until they hugged me back.

\*\*\*\*\*

If I was Boring!

If I was really boring...

Would famous people sick of being famous come to me?

Would they pay me to teach them how to be dull?  
I wonder which famous people they would be?

If I was famous for being boring, would that make me interesting, and if so, would that make me a liar?

If they said "Hey! You're not dull!", then left, would I become boring again?  
That would be very confusing, I think.

\*\*\*\*\*

What If Unicorns

What if I could find unicorns?

What if unicorns could talk, and they said; "Duh! We don't want to be found!"

What if they said; "We will give you one ride, then hide from you forever, so enjoy it..."

What if I listened to unicorns talk to each other while they gave me a ride?  
Imagine what they might say!

What if I had one beautiful secret I could hold in my heart forever?

Life would never, ever be so dull again.

\*\*\*\*\*

What If Mermaid

What if I lived in the city, and could only fish in drains?

What if everybody laughed at me?

What if I caught a dragon while fishing?

What if I was dragged to amazing places and saw amazing things?

What if a mermaid and I fell in love?

What if a huge wave took me back to where I started just before she ate me!?

What if I didn't believe how big the fish they caught was, and they didn't believe me?

\*\*\*\*\*

If a Robot Had a Human for a Heart

What if a robot had a human for heart?

Would it find that confusing?

Would it stop to smell mechanical flowers?

Would its enemy be robots without hearts?

Would it fight for us?

Would its human for a heart teach it to dance and be silly and show us how to love the world?

\*\*\*\*\*

If Dad Was Crying

What if Dad was crying?

If I asked him why, would it make it worse?

If I gave him a hug would it help?

If I imagined all the things that might make Dad cry, would I cry, too.

What if I was just happy for him?

What if I smiled and laughed and loved life?

What if that was enough?

\*\*\*\*\*

What If Monster

What if the monster under my bed was really nice?

What if my brother tried to kill it with light?

What if my bother was the one acting like a monster?

What if I hid the monster under my pillow?

What if we giggled and told jokes and stories all night?

\*\*\*\*\*

What If I Felt Really Dull

What if I felt like I was really dull?

What if the person next to me had seen a unicorn?

What if they couldn't tell anyone, but I knew?

What if that made me think about what everybody else had seen? The stuff they didn't talk about?

Dragons? Cities made of flowers? Giant butterflies?

Would the room feel very exciting? As if anything could happen?

Or would it just make me feel more dull?

What if they all told me what they had seen, and it was my job with write them all down?

How good would that be!

\*\*\*\*\*

What If a Bully

What if the bully was mean because I read books?

What if they took my books?

What if I then wrote my own books on school paper?

What if I wrote THE BULLY into my book?

What if, in my story, they were nice?

What if they liked that story and became my friend?

\*\*\*\*\*

What If a Clown

What if the seat next to me in our car was an ejector seat, but I could only use it once?

What if every time my parents gave someone a lift I was tempted to use it, but saved it for when I needed it most?

What if I was feeling down when a clown came into our car and sat beside me, and I got scared and pushed the ejector button?

I mean, I didn't know who he was!

What if a funny little umbrella popped out of his hat like a parachute, and he threw confetti and let off fire crackers and released balloons as he floated back down to earth?

What if he made everybody happy!

That would be the best!

\*\*\*\*\*

Imagine If I Could

Imagine if a mermaid in a well offered me the ability to make people laugh or cry?

Imagine if I hesitated, and she gave me the power to make people cry.

Imagine if my Mum was sad and I made her cry with happiness.

Imagine if I could make people cry with joy.

Would that make me a superhero?

Or just a really nice person?

Or a musician who made the most beautiful sounds in the world?

**Imagine if** the mermaid was actually stuck in the well, and I freed her, and made her cry with joy!

\*\*\*\*\*

I Wonder.

I watch my dog and wonder...

**What** is it thinking?

**What** is it dreaming?

**If** it could talk, **what** would it say?

**If** I couldn't make my dog talk human, **could I** just bark and grunt and stuff at it?

**If** it couldn't understand me, would I mind?

Or **would it** just be glad I tried, and wag its tale, sigh and fall asleep?

And so on...