MYP Lesson Plan: Emoji Storytelling

🗓️ Date: 27/05/2025

⏱️ Duration: 45–60 minutes

🎯 Lesson Objectives:

- Summarise the key events and themes of a short story using emoji symbols.
- Use a creative form of media (emojis) to communicate meaning to peers.
- Interpret and respond to non-verbal storytelling forms.
- Collaborate effectively in groups and reflect on how communication changes across formats.

👤 Learner Profile Focus:

- **Communicators** – Express meaning clearly using symbols and visuals; present ideas to peers.
- **Thinkers** – Innovate new ways of representing ideas through emoji and visual language.
- **Open-minded** – Understand that language takes many forms and be receptive to creative expression.
- **Reflective** – Consider the effectiveness of their own and others' communication choices.

🪜 Differentiation Strategies:

- **Support:**
  - Provide students with a word bank or emoji translator tool.
  - Give sentence starters or guided outlines of the story.
  - Offer examples of emoji storytelling.
- **Extension:**
  - Ask students to include tone and mood in their emoji version.
  - Challenge students to translate more complex themes or character arcs using emoji.
  - Invite advanced students to create an “emoji-to-text” decoder for others to solve.

📚 Resources & Materials:

- Printed or digital copies of a short story (e.g. a 100–200 word narrative)
- Emoji cheat sheet or devices with emoji keyboards
- Chart paper or digital slides for emoji story presentation
- Reflection slips or Google Form for plenary

- Kahoot Game

🔄 Learning Activities:

🧊 Warmer / Hook:

- Play the Emoji quiz linked in the materials.
- Ask: What made it easy or difficult?
- Invite guesses to see if students can predict what the lesson will be about or which ATL skill(s) we will be focusing on.

🔧 Main Learning Activity:

1 Short Story Reading (10–15 minutes)

- Individually or in pairs, students read the assigned story and identify the key events, tone, and theme. Students should think about and write down any emojis that they could use.

2 Emoji Story Creation (15–20 minutes)

- In small groups, students recreate the story using only emojis.
- They prepare a visual or digital version of the emoji "script" to present.

3 Gallery Walk or Presentation (10–15 minutes)

- Each group presents their emoji story to the class.
- The rest of the class guesses which story is being represented and discusses the interpretation.

🎯 Plenary / Reflection:

- Students answer:
  What did you learn about communication today?
- Was anything lost—or gained—by translating the story into emoji?*
- Optionally, rate how well your group communicated with emojis using a simple self-assessment scale.

➕ Optional Extension:

- Students select a personal story or news article and create a new emoji summary.
- Create a "guess the story" quiz using emojis as clues for different texts studied throughout the year.

Handout Materials

🧡 1.The Gift of the Magi (Adapted from O. Henry)

Della and Jim were a young married couple who loved each other deeply, but they were very poor. It was Christmas Eve, and Della wanted to buy a gift for Jim. She had only $1.87—nowhere near enough.
Della looked in the mirror and had an idea. She had beautiful, long hair, which she loved. But she decided to cut it and sell it to a wig maker. With the money she earned, she bought a beautiful chain for Jim's watch, the one thing he loved most.
When Jim came home, he looked shocked. "Your hair..." he said quietly. Della smiled and gave him the gift.
Then Jim gave her his gift. It was a set of beautiful combs—for her long hair.
He had sold his watch to buy them.
They both laughed and cried. Though their gifts were now useless, their love for each other was the real gift.

🐢 2.The Tortoise and the Hare (Aesop's Fable)

A hare laughed at a tortoise for being so slow.
"You may be fast," said the tortoise, "but I will still race you and win."
The hare laughed again, but agreed.
On the day of the race, the hare dashed far ahead. He was so confident, he stopped to rest under a tree—and fell asleep.
Meanwhile, the tortoise kept going, slow and steady.
When the hare woke up, he ran as fast as he could—but it was too late.
The tortoise had already crossed the finish line.
"Slow and steady wins the race," said the tortoise.

🏠 3.There Will Come Soft Rains (Adapted from Ray Bradbury)

The house spoke: "Good morning! Today is August 4, 2026."
The robotic house made breakfast, cleaned, and watered the garden—just like always.
But no one was home.
The city outside was empty and silent. A dark shadow of a family was burned into the wall—evidence of a nuclear explosion long ago.
Still, the house continued. It played music. It read poems. It reminded the family of their appointments.
Then a tree fell through the window and started a fire.

The house fought hard, spraying water, sealing doors—but the fire won.

By morning, only one wall was left.

The voice of the house whispered: “Today is August 5, 2026.”

🐉 4.The Paper Menagerie (Adapted from Ken Liu)

Jack’s mother made origami animals that came to life.

As a boy, Jack loved them. He believed in the magic.

But at school, other kids teased him for being Chinese. Jack asked his mother to stop speaking Chinese and to stop sending him special food.

He grew distant. The paper animals went still.

Years later, after his mother died, Jack found a letter inside one of the animals. It was in Chinese, so he had to ask someone to translate it.

The letter told him how hard his mother’s life had been—leaving China, marrying his father, and raising Jack with love.

Jack cried. He had never realised how much she had given him.

🎯 5.The Lottery (Adapted from Shirley Jackson)

In a small town, people gathered in the square for the yearly lottery.

Everyone drew a slip of paper from a black box. At first, it seemed like a game.

Tessie Hutchinson laughed when her family was chosen. “It’s not fair!” she shouted.

But it wasn’t a prize.

The townspeople picked up stones. Tessie’s slip had a black dot.

The town had always done it this way.

As the stones flew, no one stopped.

Tradition had spoken.