

This Is **NOT** a Show-and-Tell

Use this activity to spark imagination and creativity and guide students to transform the ordinary into the extraordinary.

Materials Needed: Everyday classroom objects (students will gather these themselves)



1. Begin by letting students know that it's time for a show-and-tell of sorts using classroom objects. But instead of simply talking about an object, they're going to channel a sense of wonder to uncover its hidden magic and bring it to life in surprising ways.
2. Invite students to explore the classroom and find an object that feels interesting to them—one they can hold or easily point to (e.g., pencil, eraser, backpack, etc.).
3. Once everyone has their object, ask them to consider these questions: *What is your object? Why did you choose it?* After they've identified the typical purpose of their object, invite them to "transform" it into something entirely new by playing a game of "This is not a..." In this game, students pretend their chosen object is something different but similarly shaped, complete with a physical gesture and comedic flourish. For example, a student holding a pencil may say, "This is not a pencil, it's a wand. A fantastical troll found it on a mysterious island. The wand turns anything it touches pink!"
4. As they investigate their newfound object and how they wish to show-and-tell all about it, remind students that exaggeration and silliness are part of the fun. The more unexpected their ideas, the better! A whiteboard eraser could become a giant toothbrush that won't stop foaming, or a backpack strap could become a stretch of ivy that comes to life and tangles its owner in knots. Encourage students to act this out so the transformation is clear, combining both the *show* (movement and gesture) and the *tell* (describing the extraordinary powers or story of their object).
5. Invite each student to present their object to the group. Each show-and-tell should feel like a miniature performance from which their classmates discover something brand-new. After each student shares, lead the group in a joyful celebration by clapping or cheering.

Reflection Questions:



What was the most surprising or funniest transformation you saw today?

How did it feel to use your imagination to turn an ordinary object into something extraordinary?

If you could bring one of today's magical objects to life in the real world, which one would you choose and why?

