

STORY NINJA TEACHER GUIDE



Ninja Story Move 1



From the
Story Ninja
Folder

Story ninjas love to **mess with people!** (As long as it's appropriate.)
• what does this mean? •

What you'll need for the lesson:

For the first teaching pause:

Find a way to play some of the songs you love in the classroom. Chances are you'll have some loaded onto your device, and you'll just need a boom box and a way to connect your headphone jack to the boom box. If not, get a few YouTube links ready to play on the projector.

For the second teaching pause:

Read aloud to the class chapter seven from Justine McKeen's *Walk the Talk* (you can download the PDF from the Story Ninja website). The final few paragraphs of the chapter pertain to the rest of the book, so when I read it during my presentations I usually end it earlier, with this line: "Under Snuggles' tail," Adam said, "where it's all dry. Snuggles likes it."

Classroom Takeaway/s

When you remember your favorite teachers, it's nearly certain it's how they made you feel good about yourself, not the exact points of what they taught you, that you remember. And, sadly, when you remember your least favorite teachers, you also recall the way they made you feel, but in a negative way.

In short, humans connect through the heart, which is how and why songs and stories impact us. And while we connect by telling stories, much more important is that we connect by listening to stories. Throughout the school year, you'll discover that you can strengthen your bonds with your Story Ninjas by giving each one your full attention when possible. So if the first reaction you show to a Story Ninja's piece of writing is a positive emotional response to the story itself, your Story Ninja will love delivering more stories to you. The title of a *New York Times* nonfiction bestseller says it so well: *Listening Is an Act of Love*.

Follow-Up Activity

Have your Story Ninjas make a list of three of their top songs, top books and top movies, along with short notes on how each song, book and movie made/makes them feel.

