

**Black Magic** – This is another mind reading activity. It involves two people who are supposedly mind readers. One person leaves the room and an object in the room is selected. The person that was out of the room is called back. The person who stayed in the room starts pointing to objects saying “Is this it?” This continues until the person picks a black object. The item he/she calls AFTER the black object is the chosen object. (Thus the name “Black Magic”).

**Magic Squares** – This is yet another mind reading game that involves two people. For this game a blackboard or large sheet of paper and marker are needed. Draw a large tic-tac-toe grid on the board. One person leaves the room and the rest of the people choose which section of the grid is “it”. The person who left the room tries to figure out which section was chosen as the other person points to different sections. The clue/trick is given in the first section pointed to. It doesn’t matter which section is pointed to, what matters is what part of the section is pointed to. The grid that is drawn is made up of 9 squares. Suppose the square that was chosen is the one on the bottom left. The person giving the clues would tell the other person that the square was the bottom left one by pointing to the bottom left corner of any of the sections and asking “Is this the square?” Once the initial clue is given the clue giver can point to as many squares as he wants (in any place on the square) until the chosen square.

**Synchronized Clapping** – This is a large group activity designed to test the kids reflexes. The kids (and adults at the tables) sit with their hands parallel, approximately 10 inches apart. The person leading the group stands with one arm up and one arm down. The leader switches arms (so that the one that was down is up and the one that was up is down). When the 2 arms are directly next to each other, all the kids must clap. If everyone has perfect reflexes, everyone claps at the same time. This never happens. The leader tries to trick the group by varying the speed and faking movements. At the end the leader switches the hands very rapidly and bows and says “Thank you, thank you”.

## 2. Minute Mysteries/Riddles

Minute Mysteries work well in the dining hall or while hiking along the trail. The students can ask yes or no questions to get clues.

Q. A man leaves home, takes three lefts and goes back home. When he gets there, he is met by a man in a mask. What is going on, and who are the men?

A. **They are playing baseball. The two people are the batter and the catcher.**

Q. A boy and his father are in a terrible car accident. The father is killed (or taken to a separate hospital) and the boy is seriously injured and rushed into the operation room. The surgeon looks at the child and says, “I can’t operate on this child because he is my son.” How is this possible?

A. **The doctor is the child’s mother.**

Q. A man lives on the 20<sup>th</sup> floor of a building. Every morning he rides the elevator to the ground floor and goes to work. In the evening he takes the elevator up to the 12<sup>th</sup> floor and walks up the stairs to the 20<sup>th</sup> floor, except when it is raining. When it is raining, he rides the elevator all the way up to the twentieth floor. Why?

A. **The person is a midget. He can’t reach the button, except with an umbrella.**

Q. A woman is found dead in the middle of the desert with a full pack on her back and a ring on her finger. How did she die?

A. **The woman was a sky diver with the chute still in the pack. The rip cord failed.**

Q. Ralph and Alice are dead on the ground. All around them, is water and broken glass. How did they die?

A. **Ralph and Alice were fish. The tank was broken.**

Q. A truck is driving down the road. It stops at a red light, goes through several greens, makes two left turns and a right. The truck stops at a house, the driver gets out and takes a package to the floor door, then drives away in the truck. On the back of the truck is a sign that says "a blind man drives this truck".

A. **The driver delivers window blinds.**

Q. A woman lies dead at the bottom of a cliff. She is holding a broken match in her hand. What happened?

A. **The woman was in a hot air balloon that needed to lighten its load to clear the cliff. The riders drew matches. She lost.**

Q. There is a cabin on the side of a mountain. Inside are two dead people seated in chairs. How did they die?

A. **The cabin is the cabin of a plane that crashed into the side of the mountain.**

Q. Lucy and Ethel walk into a restaurant and order two glasses of iced tea. Ethel gulps hers down and leaves. She is fine. Lucy sips hers and dies soon after finishing. Why?

A. **There was poison in the ice. Lucy died because the ice melted in her drink.**

Q. A man pulls up to a hotel and knows he's bankrupt. How?

A. **The man is playing monopoly.**

Q. Boris lives in Windsor. He needs an operation in Detroit. He goes by train. The operation goes fine. He takes the train back to Windsor. Halfway home, he passes out. Why?

A. **The man was blind. He had his sight surgically restored. On the way home, the train went through a tunnel, making it totally dark. The man though he'd gone blind again and passed out.**

Q. Barney, in New York, reads an article that says a man and his wife were skiing when the wife accidentally fell off a cliff. There was a picture of the husband. The man called the police and said it was murder. How did he know?

A. **Barney was a travel agent who sold the husband 1-one way and 1-round trip ticket.**

Q. A man walks into a restaurant and asks for a glass of water. The waitress pulls out a gun and points it at him. The man says "thank you" and walks away. What happened?

A. **The man had the hiccups. The gun scared him and he was cured.**

Q. There is a dead man surrounded by 53 bicycles. What happened?

A. **The bicycles are playing cards. 53 of them proves he was cheating.**

Q. A woman turns out the lights as she leaves work and is fired the next day. Why?

A. **Th woman worked at a lighthouse. She caused an accident when she turned off the lights.**

Q. A dead man is surrounded by a puddle. He is in a locked room with no weapons. How did he die?

A. **He stabbed himself with an icicle.**

Q. 2 professional golfers go to the club to play a game. One player hits a ball out of bounds and the other player adds 15 points on her score. The second player hits two shots while the first player hits none and then says "Game over". What is going on?

A. **They are playing tennis.**

Q. A man rides into town on Wednesday, stays three days and rides out again on Wednesday. How is that possible?

A. **The man's horse is named Wednesday.**

Q. There is a man dressed entirely in black, from head to toe. He is standing in the middle of a road that has no streetlights. A car, with its headlights off, is coming at him at high speed. The car stops several feet in front of them. How did the driver see him in time?

A. **It was day time and light out.**

Q. A woman runs down a long hallway with an important note. Suddenly, the lights flicker. She turns around, throws the note out, and walks away. Why?

A. **She was in a prison with a stay of execution. When the lights flickered, she knew it was too late.**

Q. A man on a railroad track saw a train coming. Before he stepped off the track, he sprinted 100 feet toward the train and narrowly missed being hit. Why did he run at it?

A. **He was 100 feet from the end of a long tunnel.**

Q. A woman lives in a high rise near the steel factory where she works. Every morning at 8, she walks downstairs, makes herself a cup of tea, reads the paper she picked up on the way, and sleeps for the next 9 hours. How does she get away with it?

A. **The woman lives in the basement of the high rise and works the night shift at the factory.**

Q. An explorer finds two people frozen in a block of ice and knows that they are Adam and Eve. How does he know?

A. **They have no belly buttons.**

Q. A man lies dead next to a rock. How did he die?

A. **He is superman lying next to kryptonite.**

Q. A dead man hangs from the ceiling, four feet off the ground. The room is completely empty except for some water on the ground. The door is locked. How did he die?

A. **He stood on a block of ice that melted.**

Q. There is a man lying dead in an alley. There is a puddle next to him and two sticks. What happened?

A. **The man ate a poisonous popsicle. After he died, it melted leaving the popsicle sticks and a puddle.**

### Riddles

Q. Why can't a person living in Washington, DC be buried in Maryland?

A. **You can't bury a person until they die.**

Q. How many animals of each species did Moses take aboard the ark with him?

A. **None. Noah did the whole ark thing, not Moses.**

Q. The man who made it didn't want it, the man who bought it didn't use it, the man who used it didn't know it. What is it?

A. **A coffin.**

Q. If you only had one match and entered a room in which there was a kerosene lamp, an oil burner and a wood stove, which would you light first?

A. **The match.**

Q. A famous archaeologist claimed that he found a coin dated 46 BC. Why was this a false claim?

A. **A real coin wouldn't say BC.**

Q. I have 2 coins which total 55 cents in my pocket. One is not a nickel. What are the coins?

A. **A nickel and a 50-cent piece. I only said one was not a nickel.**

Q. A man went for a walk. It started to rain. He didn't have a hat. He wasn't carrying an umbrella. He kept walking. His clothes and shoes got wet, but his hair didn't. Why?

A. **The man was bald.**

Q. What is black when you buy it, red when you use it and gray when you throw it away?

A. **Charcoal**

Q. Can you name three consecutive days without using the words Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday?

A. **Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow**

Q. I am part carbon, part water. I am poisonous to fishes. Many falsely claim my name. I am the pause that refreshes. What am I?

A. **I'm soda.**

Q. What falls but never breaks? What breaks but never falls?

A. **Night and Day**

Q. What has content but you can never see it?

A. **A hole.**

Q. A woman shoots her husband, holds him under water for 5 minutes, hangs him up to dry for 5 minutes then goes out to dinner with him. How is this possible?

A. **The woman was a photographer. She took her husband's picture, developed it, and then hung it up to dry.**

Q. What is it when you take away the whole, you still have some left over?

A. **The word wholesome.**

Q. On a fine and sunny day a ship was in the harbor. All of a sudden the ship began to sink. There was no storm and nothing wrong with the ship, yet it sank right in front of the spectators' eyes. What happened to the ship?

A. **It was a submarine.**

Q. How many sides does a circle have?

A. **Two. The inside and outside.**

Q. You can find us in darkness but never in light. We are present in daytime, but absent at night. We are in the deepest of shadows, yet we hide in plain sight. What are we?

A. **The letter "D".**

Q. Only one color, but not one size. Stuck at the bottom, yet easily flies. Present in the sun, but not in rain. Doing no harm, feeling no pain. What am I?

A. **A shadow.**

Q. "I guarantee," said the salesman in the pet shop, "that this purple parrot will repeat every single word it hears." A customer bought the bird, but found that the parrot failed to repeat a single word. Nevertheless, the salesman was correct. How was this true?

A. **The parrot was deaf.**

Q. There are seven flies in the kitchen. Which one is the cowboy?

A. **The one on the "range." Yee-haw!**

Q. I am a god, a planet and a measurer of heat. What am I?

A. **Mercury.**

Q. I am the strongest when you see me as round, but often I am viewed in other forms. I lift and drop the sea with my tremendous strength, and a man with a name like "powerful bicep" was the first to tread on me. What am I?

A. **The moon.**

Q. I'm white and used for cutting and grinding. When I'm damaged humans usually remove or fill me. Animals find me to be a really useful tool. What am I?

A. **Teeth.**

Q. I come in different shapes. Part of me are curves, others are straight. You can put me anywhere you like, but there is only one right place for me. What am I?

A. **A jigsaw puzzle piece.**

Q. When I point up it's bright. When I point down it's dark. What am I?

A. **A light switch.**

Q. I can be cracked and I can be made. I can be told and I can be played. What am I?

A. **A joke.**

Q. I'm not really more than holes tied to holes. I am as strong as good steel, yet I am not as stiff as a pole. What am I?

A. **A chain.**

Q. I have a neck but no head. I have two arms but no hands. What am I?

A. **A shirt, sweater, jacket, etc.**

Q. What regularly changes shape, yet remains a sphere, and is always there but often not seen?

A. **The moon.**

Q. Henry was out walking one day. He met his father-in-law's only daughter's mother-in-law. Who was she?

A. **His mother.**

Q. I am the only thing that always tells the truth. I show off everything I see. I come in many shapes and sizes. What am I?

A. **A mirror.**

Q. I am the ruler of shovels and I have a double. I am as thin as a knife and I have a wife. What am I?

A. **The King of Spades from a deck of cards.**

Q. What traps warmth, sprays forth water and ice, yet will slip through your fingers?

A. **Clouds.**

Q. What can be driven yet has no wheels? Can be sliced yet remains whole?

A. **A golf ball.**

Q. Bill bets Lisa that he can correctly predict the score of the hockey game before it starts. Lisa loses the bet. How did he do that?

A. **The game starts out 0-0.**

Q. I am used to bat with yet I never get a hit. I am near a ball but it is never thrown. What am I?

A. **Eyelashes.**

Q. I can be long or I can be short. I can be grown and I can be bought. I can be painted or I can be left bare. I can be round or I can be square. What am I?

A. **Fingernails.**

Q. What is the easiest way to throw a ball and have it stop and completely reverse direction after traveling a sort distance?

A. **Throw it straight up in the air.**

Q. What has six faces, does not wear any makeup, has 21 eyes, but cannot see?

A. **A die (dice)**

Q. We capture light yet we don't. We reflect rays of sun yet we don't. Without us the world is gray and dull. What are we?

A. **Colors.**

Q. There are 2 cops parked along a one-way street looking for traffic violations. They see a taxi driver going down the street the wrong way, yet do nothing. Why?

A. **The taxi driver is walking not driving.**

Q. I usually wear a yellow coat with a dark head. I make marks wherever I go. What am I?

A. **A pencil.**

Q. What has a tail, a head, is brown and has no legs?

A. **A coin.**

Q. Forward I'm heavy and backward I'm not. What am I?

A. **A "ton".**

Q. Light as a feather, nothing in it. A strong man can't hold it for long. What is it?

A. **Your breath.**

Q. There are 20 people in a square room. Each person has full sight of the entire room and everything in it without turning his/her head. Where can you place an apple so that all but 1 person can see it?

A. **On top of someone's head.**

Q. A person is in an airtight, sealed indestructible titanium box, with a baseball bat and ball. How can this person get out of the box?

A. **Three strikes and you're out.**

### 3. Sharings

- There are no strangers at Nature's Classroom, only friends you haven't met yet. (Usually used at Monday lunch to start the week off.)
  - Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're probably right.
  - There are three types of people in the world. Those that can count and those that can't.
  - A ship is safest in the harbor, but that's not what it was made for.
  - Be a genius. Think for yourself.
  - It is no coincidence that listen and silent have the same letters.
  - If your nose is running and your feet smell, you must be upside down.
- And many many more. There is a separate book with a bunch of sharings in it.

## I. STORIES

### The IALAC Story

The storyteller starts off by holding up a sign with "IALAC" boldly printed on it. Explain to the students that we all have an invisible IALAC sign in front of us. Tell a story that has some relevance to the NC experience the children are embarking on. One outline follows below. Embellish the story as you go along thinking about some of the missing connections. Each time the child is put down, yelled at or embarrassed,