



### **Activity: Fortune Teller**

**Materials needed:** Slips with students' names, dramatic props are encouraged. (See note below.)



#### **Description:**

The basis of this activity is for the students to make humorous predictions about the futures of their classmates. Students are allowed to use all appropriate forms of the future.

Put every student's name on a slip in a hat or bag. Next, *pairs* of students pull two names from the hat or bag.

As a pair, the students will write silly life predictions for the two students whose names they have pulled. Students should use what they know about a student to help them write predictions.

For example, student X is crazy about basketball, is always hungry, and does well on grammar tests. The student pair could write: "In the future, X will win a hot-dog-eating contest. He will eat 89 hot dogs, and then he'll ask for dessert. In five years, X will be hired by the Los Angeles Lakers, and he is going to become their star player. Unfortunately, his career won't last long because X's teammates will get very angry with him for always correcting their grammar mistakes."

Each student takes a turn at being the "Fortune Teller," reading a prediction aloud.

The student whose future is being discussed should be encouraged to respond, agreeing or disagreeing with his foretold future. Example: "I won't be playing for the Lakers because I hate them! I'll be playing for Chicago." Then open the floor to the rest of the class who might have alternate, off-the-cuff predictions for each student. The idea is to spark as much talk about the future as possible. To encourage discussion, use prompts like "What do you think you'll be doing in five years?"

**Note:** A little drama adds a lot. The more trouble the teacher goes to, the more the students will get into the activity and have fun while they learn. Bring a shawl or head scarf, a "magic" mirror, a cup of wet tea leaves, or something that can be used for a crystal ball. Taking a cue from theater workshops, students can pass the props around to make their predictions more dramatic.