The Very Secret Map

**Learning objectives**
- Express and develop ideas through collaborative discussion.
- Portray characters, settings, and events in detail based on inference and facts drawn from the text.
- Construct a conclusion, making use of transitional words and phrases and sensory detail to convey character experiences and events.
- Analyze how graphics and multimedia elements contribute to the meaning, tone, and beauty of a text.
- Use short poems, rhymes, or verse.

**Setting the scene**
“CLUNK! CLUNK!” The shaft on Digger Dan’s spade rattles loudly. Eddie the Explorer has been waiting for years to hear that sound. This time, Eddie and his partner Digger Dan have definitely hit something big!

They recently found the secret map that everyone had been talking about. It was hidden in a hole in the wall of an ancient jungle pyramid. Although Digger Dan is used to reading maps—even old maps with poor directions—this one was so confusing that he had dug holes all over the town to no avail. Until now that is!

They are both so excited that they can’t wait to dig further. The map only gives one clue as to what they will find. The clue is in the form of a short poem that they must recite while digging:

“For those who dare
Fortune lies there”

What do you think they will find?

**Building the story**
Ask the students to work in teams. Have them brainstorm ideas and then create a storyboard for a three- or five-scene drama. They should consider: the scenario, time and place, characters, props, and the main events.

- How will the scenes form the structure of the story? What dangers could lurk within the secret they have unearthed? Will it help to add more lines to the poem, and what will those lines be? How will you depict feelings of fear, excitement, fright, and wonder? What will Eddie the Explorer and Digger Dan find?

**Reflecting**
Encourage the students to discuss each scene of the story as they build. What are the essential details of each part? In what sequence should the scenes be arranged?

- What does Digger Dan expect to find?
- Will they become rich? If so, how will they spend their fortune?
- Can the excitement be built up further? How?
Sharing and documenting

Ask the students to focus on varying the style of their delivery when narrating or playing a character in front of an audience. When recording and writing, ask the students to use descriptive language and adjectives.

Extending

- Use the spinner to change your scenario. Change the period in which the story takes place. Retell the story as set in the new period. What would the secret map look like? What would Digger Dan and Eddie the Explorer find?

- Use the StoryVisualizer software to write your story. Use photographs and include your own poem or chant.