



2. POPCORN REMINISCENCE

Pop some corn during class. While the corn is popping and the sounds and aroma fill the room, ask students to jot down bits of memories they associate with popping corn. At the end, they can write a story relating to popping corn. Or, perhaps they can write "10 Ways to Improve the Taste and Texture of Pop Corn." Or how about "Why Does Pop Corn Cost So Much at the Movies?" – or – "The Real Difference Between Air Popped and Oil Popped Corn!" Lots of topics can emerge here. Just allow the students to get into it before they begin to write. The smell and taste should do the trick! Great resource: *The Popcorn Book* by Tomie de Paola (interesting facts, data, history—even recipes)

3. GARBOLGY

Create a collection of "clean" garbage – the sort of leftovers you might expect to find in a vacated but uncleaned hotel room. Or dig around in your purse or wallet for some stuff – a cryptic note, a used bottle, a piece of a list, pins, pen with a name on it, etc. Put the collection together and try to visualize the person behind the clutter. Create stories, bits and pieces of

scenarios about the person and the events. Invite small groups of students to make inferences about who this person might be. Write stories about the person, create biographies or character sketches—even pictures. Good resources: *Travel with Charley* by John Steinbeck (a chapter in his novel does exactly this – but appropriate for older students only) or *Motel of the Mysteries* by David Macaulay (great for all ages).

