



Are you thinking that
Social Stories about
thoughts are difficult?
Think again.



Carol's Club CAROL GRAY SOCIAL STORIES

Custom Social Stories™ Resources Created by Carol Gray for Members

The Project

Twice each month, Carol's Club provides a Project - a practical solution, new resource, review of a Story, or one or more new Social Stories for members. Members initiate most Projects. I am currently working with seven members on requested projects. Carol's Club also makes it possible for me to share other ideas, for example, updates on Social Stories, a new resource for members, etc. That's the case this week. We're looking at a little-known type of Social Stories that have been around since the late 1990s. We've only scratched the surface of their potential. We're talking about Stories about thoughts.

Most of us are not mind readers, though we are very good at making guesses about what the people around us are thinking. Thoughts - and attitudes, beliefs, opinions, concepts, considerations, doubts, ponderings, and the like - are important contextual factors. If the questions from workshop audiences and Carol's Club members are any indication, Social Story authors are recognizing the value of routinely including references to thoughts in the Stories and Articles that they write. I direct them to the summer 1998 issue of *The Morning News*.

The Morning News was published for several years by Jenison Public Schools. I was the editor. The summer 1998 issue included a rip-out section, *The Advanced Social Story Workbook*. You have the link in this week's Mailchimp email. Pages five to eleven in the workbook contain a variety of Story formats. Authors may use these formats to establish a meaningful thought vocabulary with their audience or to systematically describe the relationship between thoughts, behavior, and other social context factors. Sounds complicated- the formats make it so simple.

Working with a Social Story format is very much like filling out a form. It provides the outline and in many cases what to write about and how to illustrate. Stories about thoughts are not formally defined. They share some distinguishing characteristics, a text that can sometimes be altered slightly to address a new topic and simple comic strip type illustrations - like simple faces and talk and thought symbols - that visually sort statements from corresponding thoughts.

If you've time to explore this Project fully, first read pages five through eleven of The Advanced Social Story Workbook. Next, review the Social Story and the Social Article about thoughts included with this Project. Both of them explain selected idioms. The Social Story, *What does "Let me catch my breath" mean?* uses a two-column format and is suitable for a younger audience. (I have included more text than may be needed or desired to provide as many content options as possible.) The Social Article, *What does "Don't burn bridges" mean?* uses a three-column format and is intended for an older, more advanced audience.

I've included a fill-in-the-blank template for you to use to create other Social Stories describing idioms for younger audiences, titled *Basic Idiom Social Story Format* (saved in WORD and PDF).

I tried to make a similar template to develop Social Articles about idioms, but I quickly realized it may be easier for authors to use the original *What does "Don't burn bridges" mean?* as a content guide or model to create subsequent articles. Instead, a blank article template with the face, talk, and thought symbols in place is provided (saved in WORD).

I hope that you find these thoughts and resources related to Stories about thoughts helpful!