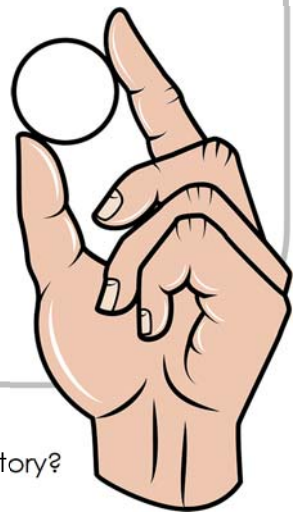Name _____

Building a Story Token by Token

Large Language Models (LLMs), like ChatGPT, create text one piece at a time. These pieces are called **tokens.** A token might be a word, part of a word, or punctuation. The model doesn't know the whole story ahead of time — it predicts what should come **next**, over and over, until the text is complete.

In this activity, you and a partner will simulate how an LLM writes text by **building a story token by token**.

Directions - Work with a partner. One of you will start the story with a single word or short phrase. Then the other person adds the next word (or phrase). Keep taking turns until you build a whole story.

Remember: Just like an LLM, you are only thinking about the **next token**, not the whole story. Your partner's word changes what you might write next. The story may go in surprising directions - that's part of the fun!

<u>Reflection Questions</u>
1. Was it hard to only think about the **next word/phrase** instead of the whole story?
2. Did your story surprise you? Why or why not?
3. How does this activity help you understand how an AI like ChatGPT generates text?