

Retelling stories at home



Building reading
comprehension
through
retelling stories.

Learning to retell a story is an important skill for building reading comprehension and writing skills in young children.

Children need to develop story telling skills in a spoken format before they can apply them to a written format – to understand stories and to write stories.

To tell a good story children need to understand the components of story structure.

STORY RETELL

PROCEDURE

Materials you need

- 15 Sets of pictures
- Story scripts
- Story icons
- Story gestures

Steps

(It is important to make sure that you complete all 6 steps for each story)

Step 1 - Model story (I do it)

- Choose a story.
- Place the four pictures for that story in the correct order (1-4) in front of the child.
- Now read the story to the child/ren.
- While you are reading, your child/ren can follow along with the story by looking at the ordered pictures.
- While you are reading the story, identify the parts of the story ([character](#), [setting](#), [complication](#), [action](#), [resolution](#)) and lay out the icons that correspond to each part.
- The child/ren should make the gesture that matches the icon as it is placed.

Step 2 - Team retell (We do it together)

- Leave the pictures on the table.
- The child/ren can select an icon.
- The child/ren are given a part of the story to tell.
- The story is retold with the child/ren retelling their part of the story in the correct order.
- The icon that was selected is placed down as the story is retold.
- After the child/ren have told the story the adult should summarize it. This is to model a correct and clear retell for the child/ren as they will do this by themselves in Step 3.

Step 3 - Individual retell 1 (You do it yourself) with Pictures and Icons

- The child has heard the story two or three times – now it's their turn to start to retell the story.
- Leave the pictures and the icons on the table in view of the child/ren.
- Choose a child to retell the story with the pictures and the icons available. The other children can make the story gestures as the story is told.
- The adult summarizes the story.

Step 4 - Individual retell 2 (You do it yourself) Icons only

- This time remove the pictures but leave the icons on the table.
- Choose a student to retell the story with only the icons available. If there is more than one child they can make the story gestures as the story is told.
- The adult summarizes the story.

Step 5 - Individual generation (You do it yourself) Icons only

- Leave the icons on the table in view of the students.
- Ask the child/ren, "*Has something like that ever happened to you?*" "*Have you ever lost something at home?*"; "*Have you ever been given something you don't like to eat? Tell me about that.*"
- The adult then retells each child's story.

Step 6 - Story writing (We do it together) Icons only







- Have the child/ren draw the story they created in Step 5.
- Together you can add words and sentences to the drawings to 'write' the story. This is done together and it can be the adult who writes the words if the child is not yet ready to write.

Encouragement and Prompts

If a student is reluctant to respond, you can provide encouragement by saying, for example, "*It's OK. Just do your best.*" Always praise the children for their efforts.

If your child/ren is struggling with the task, provide whatever prompts are necessary for them to succeed.

STORY GESTURES

Story Element	Description of gesture	Photo of gesture
<i>Character</i>	Point towards eye with hand.	
<i>Setting</i>	Use both hands to form the roof and walls of a house.	
<i>Complication/ Problem</i>	One thumb down.	
<i>Action</i>	Flick whole hand forward.	
<i>Ending/ Resolution</i>	One thumb up.	
<i>Feeling</i>	Tap heart with right hand.	

Warm-up activity using story gestures

Adult calls out the story terms in random order and students make the associated Story Gestures. Gradually build up the speed with this activity.

Adult makes Story Gestures in random order and students call out the associated story term. Gradually build up the speed with this activity.

Active listening using story gestures

Adult retells story while students listen to the story and make a corresponding gesture when the adult tells each part. Story gestures should be implemented in a game-like fashion to enhance active listening.



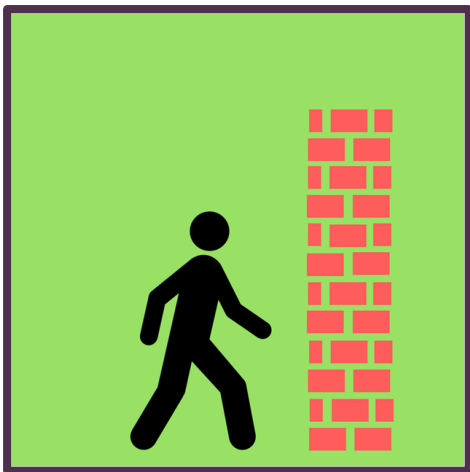
STORY ICONS



Character



Setting



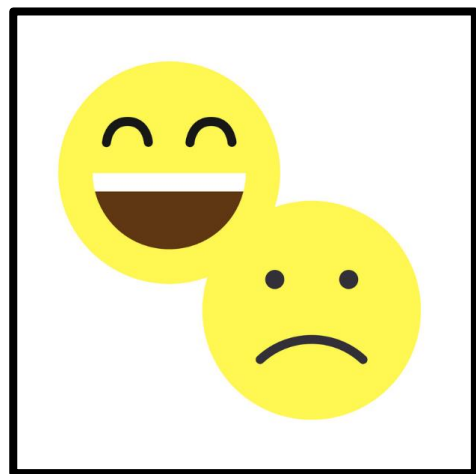
Complication



Action



Resolution



Feelings