

Reading Mini-Lesson

Skill: Retelling

Instructor: Bella Moolla

Introduction: Teaching Point (1 minute) Listen to me.	<p>Today I am going to teach you about retelling which means just how it sounds: the retelling of a story.</p> <p>But retelling is more than just regurgitating memorized facts from a book; it is meant to demonstrate comprehension of sequenced events that have taken place in the story. Retelling activates children's memories and engages children in the process of interpreting pictures. Most importantly, retelling involves wordless books, and have become more commonplace in middle years classrooms recently.</p> <p>Each educators' approach to retelling will vary, meaning, there is no right or wrong way to retell a story so long as the goal of retelling is achieved, then students will be able to synthesize the main idea (known as <i>sequencing</i>). This is done primarily by linking order of events using words such as <i>first</i>, <i>next</i>, <i>then</i>, and <i>last</i>. Again, retelling is best done with wordless picture books, but some teachers may use film for students to practice reading comprehension, inferencing, asking questions, and other literacy skills that come with the process of retelling.</p> <p>Resources:</p> <p>https://www.kids-konnect.com/blog/why-story-retelling-helps-kids-learn</p> <p>https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/for-educators/teaching-strategies/how-to-teach-retelling</p> <p>http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/creative-writing-through-wordless-130.html</p>
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<p>Instruction:</p> <p>Teach/ Demo</p> <p>(3-8 minutes)</p> <p>“I do”</p>	<p>Now, let me show you how to retell a story.</p> <p>The story I’ve chosen for today is called <i>Fly</i> by Mark Teague</p> <p>First, we see on the front cover a bird standing on the edge of its nest, looking down - somewhat scared maybe. I wonder what he’s afraid of.</p> <p>Next, there’s a series of images of what appears to be a baby bird crying, then looking around, and he doesn’t appear to be having a very good time.</p> <p>Let’s see what the deal is.</p> <p>And here, we’ve got a baby bird poking out of an egg.</p> <p>First, we see a mother bird, maybe a Robin by the look of her red belly, feeding her baby bird a worm. We can see the mother bird repeats this action a few times and each time the baby bird gets a little more feathers but appears more and more upset.</p> <p>Next, we see the baby bird has grown much bigger by now, and the Mama bird continues to get him baby food.</p> <p>I typed the following before having to rewrite the next scene, as I noticed the speech bubbles really made a difference in retelling the context of the story.</p> <p><i>But baby bird does not want to be treated like a baby anymore and chirps to his Mama in bird talk, “I do not want you to feed me worms in the nest, I want to come out of my nest, and stand on the branch so you feed me there.” We can tell by baby bird’s face that he means business because he looks quite serious. Mama bird —</i></p> <p>Continued...</p> <p>However, and depending on which way you read this, Mama bird appears to have stopped at the end of the branch, where her son angrily demands for her to come and feed him his worm as she has done so many times previously. But Mama bird is just as angry and demands that he comes out of his nest before she feeds him.</p> <p>We now can infer that the images shown in the beginning of the book were of the baby bird not wanting to leave his nest.</p>
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	Next, we can see baby bird becomes very upset and we can tell by the exclamation mark he is thinking “WORM!” “WORM!”
Instruction: Teach/ Demo (3-8 minutes) “I do” continued...	<p>“WORM!!” “I WANT MY WORM!!!” Baby bird gets so upset he jumps right out of his nest and we see the worm fall out of his Mother’s mouth as she watches him and his worm fall from the tree down, down to the ground.</p> <p>Mother bird swoops down to her son, and looks at him with sternness in her eyes - is she surprised that her son does not know how to fly? Baby bird is not so much a baby anymore and by the look on his face, he knows he better listen up to what his mother is about to say.</p> <p>We can tell by the speech bubble coming from the Mother bird that she is encouraging her son to try and fly up to their birds nest on his own, but he looks down in disappointment and chirps to his mother he wants her to fly him on her back with the worm in his mouth.</p> <p>Then, Mama bird begins to share the history of their family lineage and ancestry describing the different kinds of birds who’ve had to learn to fly and continued to fly throughout their lifetime. But her son would rather take a hot air balloon up into the sky to get from place to place, while his Mother is opposed to this idea, her son begins to suggests different ways of getting around by air.</p>

<p>Interaction:</p> <p>Active</p> <p>Engagement (4 minutes)</p> <p>Students practice skill “We do”</p>	<p>“Now it’s your chance to try this with me...”</p> <p>First, he suggests down hill skiing and taking flight by the force and pressure of a ramp sending him soaring. Next, he loudly suggests a plane to get from point A to point B, then he laughingly he suggests a red cape that will make him fly like Superman - which shows he is not taking this flying business all too seriously. By now, Mama bird looks fuming and unimpressed by her sons’ funny business.</p> <p>We can see by the first speech bubble the changing colour of the leaves which suggests Autumn has arrived, and Mother bird and her son are flying away. Next to this speech bubble is a picture of a sign which reads <i>Greetings From Florida</i> - Mother bird is describing the scenario of migration and is telling her son he is going to have to fly to Florida when the time comes. But her son has a different idea and instead he’d rather bicycle there - notice how he’s wearing his helmet!</p> <p>What about a skateboard, he suggests or driving a car, he would even take the train if he has to! Lastly, and by now he’s run out of ideas, baby bird would rather take a pogo stick all the way to Florida. His Mother looks at him with all seriousness in her eyes, “got any more bright ideas?’ But he’s all burnt out by now. His mother then insists, “you will fly to Florida!!!” Baby bird begins to stomp his feet and cry out loud by the thought of it.</p> <p>At this point, students will be handed out worksheets to fill in as we go along throughout the rest of the story.</p> <p>Fill in each box as you heard any of the words <i>first, next, then, or last.</i></p> <p><i>First</i></p> <p>Mama bird asks her son: what will you do when a big, scary dog approaches you?</p> <p><i>Then</i></p> <p>Baby bird says: He will lick me.</p> <p><i>Next</i></p> <p>Mama bird asks: and what about a fat cat who wants to eat you?</p>
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	<p><i>Last</i></p> <p>Baby bird responds: If anything, that fat cat will be scared of me.</p> <p><i>First</i></p> <p>Mama bird is worried now and asks her son: What about at night time when owls can see you in the dark? What will you do then?</p> <p><i>Then</i></p> <p>Baby bird looks at his Mother and asks “Owl?” It doesn’t seem baby bird knows what an owl is.</p> <p><i>Next</i></p> <p>Baby bird scooches up to his Mama and begins to looks up to her intently. Mamabird then flies away leaving her son in tears. He does not want her to go. He feels stranded, lost, hopeless.</p> <p><i>Last</i></p> <p>But then he begins to take flight, and in so many ways, makes his way up to the nest where his Mom is waiting for him.</p> <p>Worksheet:</p> <p>https://assets.ctfassets.net/p0qf7j048i0q/4XEQDyikKgv4ItVZb0Ai0E/03b232b18693eabc363567e23d64f0f6/Retelling_Understood.pdf</p>

Closure: “You do”	<p>Students will be asked to choose a book from the class library to fill out the worksheet individually. Given the lack of available wordless picture books students can opt to watch a wordless film or be asked to check out a storybook but interpret the images without reading the text to the best of their ability. (It can be difficult not to read words if they are present on a page)</p> <p>http://www.awalkinthechalk.com/2017/02/teach-reading-comprehension-skills.html</p> <p>Same worksheet as before (?): https://assets.ctfassets.net/p0qf7j048i0q/4XEQDyikKgv4ItVZb0Ai0E/03b232b18693eabc363567e23d64f0f6/Retelling_Understood.pdf</p>
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