

Responding to stories

Brief notes

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For many activities and lesson plans on this theme see:

Storytelling with Children

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Oxford University Press

Before you tell the story

- 1 No activity at all...** (*straight into the story*).
- 2 Create story readiness** (*Show the book, show pictures, play music, wear special clothes, show objects, special place to sit, etc.*)
- 3 Focus** the students minds on the topic and ideas of the story. (*Discussion. Pictures. Objects.*)
- 4 Teach** new language important for an understanding of the story. (*Translation. Pictures. Games.*)
- 5 Encourage prediction** (*Show the book. What did you think the story is about?*)
- 6 Set a task** (*I am going to tell the story. If I make a mistake tell me!*)

While you tell the story

- 1 Listen and enjoy it!** (*Nothing except listen and enjoy the story*).
- 2 Comprehension..** (*Ask questions in L2 or L1 but with an aura of the concern of a fellow listener NOT the concern of the language teacher as tester. Other techniques: arranging pictures or texts in sequence, miming, completing a gapped text, filling in a flowchart, drawing map, miming, acting out, etc.*)
- 3 Prediction.** (*What is going to happen now?*)
- 4 Analysis..** (*Why is he doing that?*)
- 5 Expression..** (*Drawing. Miming. Acting. Chanting. Imagining particular things re the fives senses.*)
- 6 Task.** (*Carrying out a task which you set before starting the story.*)

After you have told the story

Perhaps just let the students enjoy the story with no follow up tasks at all! They won't believe their luck!

1 Comprehension. *(re-telling, sequencing texts or pictures, acting out, writing the story, discussing the story, analysing the story, flowcharting the story, relationship diagram, drawing on a map, drawing a picture or picture strip, questions and answers)*

2 Analysis and reflection. *(Evaluating through choice of rating, comment on aspects of the story)*

3 Expression. *(Drama, book making, painting, singing, writing a poem or a chant, writing letters between the protagonists, writing a journal, writing a story within the story, interviewing a protagonist eg the wolf, re-telling from a different point of view, re-telling set in a different time or place, re-telling in a different medium)*

4 Topic and concept linked activities. *(researching aspects of the content of the story eg geographical, historical, cultural, mathematical, food, clothes, animals, etc.)*

5 Publishing and performing. *(For the class only or for other people: books, website, leaflets, postcards, posters, plays, audio tapes, video tapes, mask plays, shadow plays, puppets, mime, song and chant, etc.)*