

## COMPREHENSION - SPONTANEOUS AND CUED RETELLING

At the completion of reading (or listening to) a story/passage, ask the student to provide a spontaneous retelling of the story/passage in his own words. Give 1 point to each main idea in the text. The key literal ideas and the ones you could infer have been given for the sample passage below.

A sample passage

*"No matter where you are on these islands", Sam said, " the beach is never far away".*

*"But some are better than others", Tom said.*

*Yes, that's right, Pat agreed. "Some are good for swimming. Others, the ones with big waves, are great for surfing".*

*"How is the beach we are going to?" Rob asked. " I've seen a lot of pictures of your beaches".*

*You'll like this one", Tom said.*

*The road went over a hill. Rob could hear the sound of the waves and smell the sea.*

Characteristic of retelling	Ideas in the story	No of ideas/ points
Main characters	The main characters are Sam, Tom, Pat and Rob	4
Theme of story	About boys who were going to the sea	1
Plot of the story	One of the boys is new to the island and the others are taking him to a beach	2
Events of the story	• Wherever you are on the island you're close to the sea	1
	• Some of the beaches are good for swimming and others, with big waves, for surfing	1
	• They are going along a road to a beach	2
	• Tom said Rob would like this beach	1
	• Rob could hear the waves and smell the sea	1
Inferential ideas (infer, predict, explain, read between the lines)	• The island was small.	1
	• All the boys except Rob lived on the island.	1
	• Some beaches were ocean beaches.	1
	• The land near the beach they were going to was hilly.	1
	• The boys liked the sea / surfing/ swimming/ both.	1

Following the spontaneous re-telling, use directed questioning to examine further comprehension (cued retelling), for example; for a narrative you can ask

- *Who else was in the story? What did they do? Did ..... happen first?*
- *Why did..... happen? What did they do?*

Examine inferential knowledge by asking questions that go beyond the information given:

- *Why do you think..... happened? Would it have happened it.....*
- *How do you think.....?*

Examine topic knowledge by asking questions that involve a summary of the information given:

- *Make up a headline to say the main ideas in the story.*
- *What is a good title for the story?*

Then score the child's answers, adding a new column next to the scores for the spontaneous answers.

Student's can be taught to spontaneously use these strategies while reading, to scaffold comprehension.

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**Title of selected passage/story:**

*Optional: Cut & paste the story here.*

<b>Characteristic of retelling</b>	<b>Ideas in the story</b>	<b>No of ideas/ points</b>	<b>Student's score, Spontaneous retell</b>	<b>Student's score, for cued retell</b>
Main characters	The main characters are			
Theme of story				
Plot of the story				
Events of the story				
Inferential ideas (infer, predict, explain, read between the lines)				