

Learning how to use paraphrasing strategies, while reading, improves comprehension for students in grade four.

Teaching Sequence

The format consisted of:

- 1 Explicit paraphrasing instruction Students will be taught: *When I read I say the story in my own words*
- 2 Teacher modelling and expectation.
- 3 Practice – students demonstrated the skill at each session
- 4 Reading and matching words and meanings
- 5 Reflecting on learning and taking responsibility for their learning
- 6 Reading prose silently.

During the teaching phase the teacher modelled the effective use of the strategy for the group.

- What is the reading about? ...
- What does the title mean? I think the story will be about
- I can say it in my own words..... They were then asked to say each sentence in their own words

Each session incorporated oral discussion of the title and then a reiteration of the question: What do you do when you read? When we read we make a picture in our mind and try to say what we read in our own words, followed by a retelling, in their own words, the story from the previous day. After the students read the passage of the day the teacher reviewed the passage by having them find words of similar meaning to those on cards. The teacher helped the students to find unknown or difficult words in the text. They said and explained the selected vocabulary in their own words. The teacher then provided synonyms and the students discussed and matched these to words in those in the passage.

SESSION OUTLINES

Session 1

1. The teacher introduced the strategy *When we read we make a picture in our mind and say the sentence in our own words.*
2. The students were given ten words selected from the passage to discuss and find in the text.
3. They were then given ten synonyms to match with the words and to substitute in the text
4. They then were asked to read the text silently
5. The teacher cued the student to apply the strategy sentence by sentence throughout the short passage.
6. She reviewed the strategy again and asked the student what they could do when they read at other times.

Session 2 - 7

1. The teacher introduced a new text and a new set of words and synonyms each time
2. The teacher instructed students to say the steps involved in the strategy and practice applying the strategy to single sentences in the new passage.

Sessions 8 – 10

1. Students were able to articulate what they would without prompting by the teacher and were able to find synonyms for the given words before the teacher was able to prompt or produce her set

TEACHING SEQUENCE

Activity	Task	Time
Explain strategy	Students will say what they do when they read When I read I try to say each sentence in my own words Then will then be given a passage	5 mins
Predict	Students will read title and try to say in their own words what they think the story will be about	5 mins
Finding target words	The teacher will introduce interesting words from the passage and students will say them, find them and try to say what they mean	10 mins
Matching Synonyms with target words	Teacher will give words and students say words and then will match them for meaning with words previously discussed in the lesson	5 mins
Text reading	Students will read passage with target words and will be cued into the story...This is about....	5 mins
Paraphrasing	Teacher will model how to say a sentence in her own words Students will take turns paraphrasing each sentence in the passage.	10 mins
Reflection	Reflect on the value of paraphrasing to gain meaning from the text	2 mins

Texts

All taken from Comprehension for Year FOUR Heinemann 2002

April Fools day Narrative

Words : told, walked ,happiness, unhappy, pretend, looking, clever, ran, helped
*Cranky, strolled, consoled, imaginary, approving, annoying, cunning,
glancing, pushed, delight*

Pinky the story of a pig

Words : rear, week, cute, suck, bleating,
Crying, cool, look after, drink, seven days

Robots

Words : wondered, shaped, found, grabbers, lying, poking, excited, blinked, coils,
Rings, saw, looking, stared, happy, sticking, fingers, thought

Tory's Good Idea

Words : hurried, swap, reminded. idea, grumbled, chuckling, further,
Else, laughing, told, change, moaned, thought, went

Kites

Words : invaded, festival, horrible, especially, terrified, battle, scared, moaning,
Tangled
*Frightened, tied, broke into, moaning, fights, crying, celebration ,scared,
Crying*

The Old Shed

Beach Litter

A Caravan Holiday

Bobby Boy - The story of a Horse

Pre Test : Mum's Mistake

Post Test The Explorers

Appendix 2

Characteristic of Retelling	Ideas in the story
The main characters	Mum Pete and I 3
Theme of the story	About going strawberry picking in the car 1
Plot of the story	mum took the wrong way home. 1
Events in the story	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pete and I going strawberry picking with mum • Half hour drive from home • Bought some chips, drink and vegetables • Chose another way home • Mum went for the wrong ferry • didn't mind listened to radio and ate chips and fruit. <p style="text-align: right;">6</p>
Read between the lines	<p>He liked his friend Pete The road was windy Mum bought all the fruit they picked No-one was upset They had to take a ferry instead of crossing at the bridge</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5</p>

Total 16

Characteristic of Retelling	Ideas in the story
The main characters	Dad and Melanie 2
Theme of the story	Nelly's family drove into the mountains the same as the early explorers. 1
Plot of the story	.Dad told Melanie about the life of the early explorers and how they got to the top of he mountains 1
Events in the story	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family went for a drive into mountains • First time of freeway • Dad tole Melanie about explorers • Three men, servants, horses and dogs • Horses carried food, tools and blankets • Steep difficult climb • Cut a narrow track as they went • Three weeks to cross • Saw wonderful view and farming land on other side • Melanie and her family saw same view 10
Read between the lines	The drive was into the mountains Horses don't like climbing in the mountains Horses carried heavy loads Melanie and her family went the same way as the explorers 2

Total 16

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