

Lesson Skill: Summarizing story events

Strands Oral Language, Reading — fiction, Writing

SOL K.1, K.9, K.12

1.1, 1.9, 1.13

2.3, 2.8, 2.12

Materials

- Books for independent reading
- Reader’s Report Chair (objects to decorate the chair, such as ribbons, cushions, a small, colorful blanket)

Lesson

Note: By designating Reader Report time with a specially decorated Reader’s Report Chair, this activity is likely to become a favorite, and it can take place frequently—weekly, monthly, or a few times a year. Have the class decorate “The Chair” to make it even more special. Writing may be incorporated into the lesson by having students write their reports before their presentations.

1. Have each student read a self-selected book independently.
2. When students are finished reading their books, have each reader sit in the decorated Reader’s Report Chair to briefly summarize his/her book, talk about one or two favorite aspects or highlights of the book (character, important events, setting, writer’s style, illustrations), read a favorite passage, and offer an evaluation and recommendation for others to read (or not read).
3. Students can plan ahead and dress as one of the book’s characters .

Assessment

- Listen to students’ oral summaries for sequential events, the main idea, and key details. If students write summaries, look for this same information.

Strategies for Differentiation

- Summarize a familiar story, using the following questions:
 - What is the title of the book?
 - Who is the author?
 - Who is the illustrator? (if applicable)
 - Who is the main character?
 - What are the important events in the story?
 - When does the story take place? (setting)
 - Where does the story take place? (setting)
- Provide three written summaries of a familiar story, and have students select the best summary and explain why it is the best.