



Skill: Understand the story

Before Reading

Learn the strategy

Reading tip: Take a book walk

1. Touch the page: Encourage your child to point to all parts of the page, circle things with their fingers, etc. as they tell what they see.

2. Talk about the picture: Ask your child questions about specific things in the picture.

3. Say what happened: Discuss what your child is thinking about as they look at the pictures. What do these pictures tell us about the story?

For older kids, you can ask questions about the cover. Then flip over the book and read the back. Ask some more questions. Then read a paragraph or page in the beginning and the middle of the book. Discuss what your child “pictures” in their head.

This is a great way to get excited about a text and review some of the words or ideas your child will find before they actually read. Remember this strategy works for fiction and nonfiction texts!

Ask your child

- Tell me what you see in the picture.
- Where do you see that in the picture? Point to it.
- How has the picture changed from the previous page?
- What do you think may happen next? Why do you think that?
- What does this picture make you wonder?
- Who might the characters be?

For older kids

- What do you picture in your head for this part?
- What do you think is going to happen next?
- What else do you think this book may be about?

Interact & play

You and your child could pretend to be the characters you see in each picture. Practice talking in silly character voices. See who can come up with the most unique or interesting idea of what the characters are thinking or feeling!

Practice in the real world

Play “Walk me through your day.” Ask your child to close their eyes, picture what happened in their day. Then they can describe each part to you.

They could also picture what will happen tomorrow (or next week or a typical weekend day).

Flagging trouble spots

- Make sure you start reading from the beginning of the book. It’s fun to “guess” what the book says but even better to actually find out!

My thoughts and questions 

