

Sample Read-Aloud Strategy

Guess How Much I Love You



Say: Today I'm going to read a story called *Guess How Much I Love You* by Sam McBratney. Let's look at the pictures and see if you can tell me what the story is going to be about.

Do: Encourage the children to respond as you turn the pages of the book from beginning to end. This activity is sometimes called a "picture walk." After the children have offered their ideas, say:

Say: This story is about Little Nutbrown Hare and his father. It's Little Nutbrown Hare's bedtime. He's not ready to go to bed so he stalls and tells his father to guess how much he loves him - as far as he can reach, as high as he can hop and so on. Each time, Big Nutbrown Hare goes him one better - he can reach farther, hop higher. While I'm reading, try to decide if there is anything Little Nutbrown Hare could do to prove that he loves his father more. As I read, try to remember all the ways that Little Nutbrown Hare said he loved his father.

Do: Ask questions that build additional background knowledge and set a purpose for listening. Have you ever stalled at bedtime? Have you ever told someone something and then they "one-bettered" what you said? How did that make you feel? Once the children are familiar with this questioning technique, you can ask them to think of their own questions.

Say: Now that I've told you a little bit about the story, let's read it.

Do: Show the children the pictures as you read. Stop occasionally for reactions, comments, and questions. To engage the children, you can ask the following discussion questions: "Can you remember the first way that Little Nutbrown Hare told his father that he loved him? What did the Big Nutbrown Hare say?" If the children don't respond, you can model a response by saying, "Every time the Little Nutbrown Hare says he loves the Big Nutbrown Hare this much, the Big Nutbrown Hare says the same thing but more!"

Say: Now that we've read the story, who can tell me what the little nutbrown hare said first when he asked his father to guess how much he loved him? Second?

Do: Let the children respond and ask them to retell the story using the pictures in the book to help them recall the story sequence. Finally focus on the second goal, making inferences and ask:

Say: If you were Little Nutbrown Hare, what would you have done to put off having to go to bed? Do you think that Big Nutbrown Hare loves Little Nutbrown Hare more? Why or why not? What lesson can we learn from this story?

Adapted from Mandel Morrow, Lesley & Gambrell, Linda B. (2004). *Using Children's Literature in Preschool. Supporting Reading Comprehension: Responding to Books*, 3, 37-47.

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