

Retelling Guides

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A Retelling Guide is a written set of prompts that can be used in an interview or conference setting of teacher to student or student to student.

Rationale

This is a synthesis or assessment strategy that can be used cooperatively involving listening and speaking, across content areas.

Instructional Procedures

1. Select the text or viewing material that is to be used as the source of the retelling.
2. Identify key points or events of the material.
3. Prepare a written prompt or guide reflecting essential items that could be retold.
4. Have students read, hear or view the material.
5. Overview the retelling guide with the students serving as the recorder/listener.
6. Place students with partners for guided retelling interaction.
7. Have recorder provide feedback to the student teller.

Helpful Hints

A guide can be general by using the story map that is provided in the

following pages, or by providing text specific prompts/questions.

Each time a story is read, a teacher can conference with two students at a time by guiding them through a retelling and saving the results in their portfolio. This works well with younger students.

Relevant Standards

K-2

Students read and understand grade level appropriate material. They draw upon a variety of comprehension strategies as needed.

3-5

2.0 Students read and understand grade-level-appropriate material. They describe and connect essential ideas, arguments and perspectives of the text structure, organization and purpose.

2.2 Use appropriate strategies when reading for different purposes (e.g. full comprehension, locating information, and personal enjoyment).

2.4 Evaluate new information and hypotheses by testing them against known information.

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5-8

- 3.0 Students read and understand grade-level-appropriate material. They describe and connect essential ideas, arguments and perspectives of the text structure, organization and purpose.

Further Resources

Brown, H. & Cambourne, (1995) B., Read and Retell. Heinemann Publishers: Portsmouth, NH

IRI Informal Reading Inventory

Schulz, A. R. (1998). Supporting intermediate & secondary readers. Costa Mesa, CA: California Reading Association.