

Grade 1 Reading

Sample 1: Retelling a Story

Context

In this class, students listened to the teacher read engaging stories on a daily basis. The class would discuss the setting, characters, and events, and the problem and solution. Students often retold or acted out scenes from the stories.

Before independent reading activities, the teacher provided prereading experiences that connected story ideas and language to students' experiences. These experiences often included discussions, small-group tasks, shared readings of similar stories, or activities to build vocabulary and further understanding.

Process

The teacher introduced the story "Henny Penny." The students had been involved in a unit on traditional folk tales and fairy tales and were familiar with some of the structures of this genre (e.g., "Once upon a time" as a way to begin the story). The class discussed real versus imaginary events and how authors may portray animals as having human-like abilities. They made a list of the stories they had previously read and the characteristics and skills that the animals in them possessed.

The teacher asked the students to think about a time when they might be in a situation where they could have something fall on their heads. Students in small groups told each other their ideas. Together, the class shared ideas.

The teacher explained that they were going to read a story about something falling. Students independently read a short, simple version of "Henny Penny" that included illustrations supporting the text. They then retold the story in their reading response journals.

Note: This was an integrated reading and writing activity. Only the analysis for reading is presented here.

MEETS EXPECTATIONS (MINIMAL LEVEL)

Teacher's Observations

The story was somewhat familiar to this student, and she was able to read and provide a basic retelling with little support.

- retells some key events (misses a key element of the story)
- identifies main characters
- locates some specific details

here Penny That
The said was that
ten on Hon his tal
The duck said can
I go with you to the

king can go to is said
The rabbit so
that was and was
until they was for
he let them to be
den the rabbit
said he won stop