

I'm Thinking of a Story

Purpose

Students will begin to identify and summarize the main ideas and plot of a story.

Materials

For the teacher: selection of folk tales and stories that you have read in the classroom, chalk, chalkboard

Activity

A. Pre-Activity Preparation

1. Make a chart with three rows labeled "Beginning," "Middle," and "End" on the chalkboard.
2. Write, "WHAT happened after _____?" and "WHY did _____?" next to each category.

B. Pre-Activity Discussion

1. Tell the students that they are going to play a guessing game.
2. Say; "I'm thinking of a story, and you can try to guess what it is after I've told you the beginning, middle, and end. If you know before I have finished, hold your hand up and listen to the rest of the description to make sure you have guessed the correct story."
3. Tell the students that your job is to help them guess correctly by giving them a good description, or a summary, of the story.

C. Play the Game

1. Give the students your summary. Use the word "summary" at the beginning of each round. Use only stories that are familiar to the class.
2. Call on students to guess the story you have summarized.
3. Tell them that they can ask you any of the questions written on the board, and read them the questions.
4. Answer the students' questions and have them guess again.
5. When the students guess correctly or wish to end a summary, show them the cover of the book you were summarizing and read the title. If students are unable to answer correctly, ask them to give a better summary that would help someone recognize the book.

**MEETING
INDIVIDUAL****NEEDS**

Have students who need extra practice summarize by looking at story cards (each with a scene from the plot on it), putting them in order, and acting them out or describing them for a partner.

**connecting
across the
curriculum**

Social Studies





Read an article from the newspaper, and ask the class what the writer wanted people to learn from it. Summarize the main ideas together.

**Standards Links
K.3.3, K.4.1**

Questions for Review

Basic Concepts and Processes

Periodically review books that you have read in class by asking the following questions:

-  Can you tell me about this book?
 -  What happens at the end?
 -  Can you play the summary game with me and describe a book so I can guess what it is?
 -  How do you think of things to put in your summary?
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