

Retelling



What is it?

Retelling is a procedure by which a child recalls or reconstructs the important elements of a story. This can be done orally, or pictorially, or in writing.

Why use it?

Retelling helps to determine the reader's ability to comprehend text and stories, sense of story structure, and language complexity.

How to do it:

1. A retelling may be based on a book read by the child alone or one read to the child. Books selected should have good plot structures that make the story lines easy to follow and, therefore, easy to retell.

If the teacher will be reading the text aloud, the materials should be above the child's independent reading level, as children are generally able to more easily comprehend material read to them.

2. Tell the child before reading or listening to the selection that he/she will be asked to retell it.
3. For purposes of assessment, it is best to tape record the child's retelling for later reference and analysis.
4. For purpose of assessment, it is crucial to allow the child to retell the story without teacher's prompts. The book should be closed before the child begins the retelling.

By examining both qualitative and quantitative results, a teacher has a very detailed picture of a child's comprehension and sense of story.

Student's Composition and Retelling Checklist



Name _____ Date _____

Name of composition or book _____

Author _____

SETTING:

YES NO

I began my composition/retelling with an INTRODUCTION. _____

I told WHEN the story happened. _____

I told WHERE the story happened. _____

CHARACTERS:

I told about the main character _____

I told about the other characters. _____

PROBLEM:

I told about the story problem or goal. _____

EPISODES:

I included episodes. _____

SOLUTION:

I told how the problem was solved or the goal was met. _____

I told how the story ended. _____

THEME:

My story has a theme _____

When I compose/retell on my own, I include: _____

The next time I compose/retell, I need to remember to include these things: _____

Example of a Retelling Reaction Sheet



Name _____ Date _____

I listened to _____.

Choose one thing your partner did well.

He/she told about the characters. _____

He/she told about the setting. _____

He/she told about events in the story. _____

His/her story had a beginning. _____

His/her story had an ending. _____

Tell your partner one thing that was good about his/her story: _____
_____.

Example of a Retelling Reaction Sheet



Name _____ Date _____

I listened to _____.

Choose one thing your partner did well.

He/she told about the characters. _____

He/she told about the setting. _____

He/she told about events in the story. _____

His/her story had a beginning. _____

His/her story had an ending. _____

Tell your partner one thing that was good about his/her story: _____
_____.

Story Structure Assessment Rating Guide



Name _____

Date _____

Setting

Rating (0-4)

- 4 Includes an introduction, names of main character and other characters, description of important places and times.
- 3 Includes main character and some other characters, brief description of place and time.
- 2 Includes main character and briefly states times or place.
- 1 Includes only one element, such as place or names of minor characters.
- 0 Does not include any information related to setting.

Problem

Rating (0-4)

- 4 Includes an elaboration of the main characters primary goal or problem to be solved, including motive or theme of story. This also includes the event that sets up the problem in the story.
- 3 Includes primary problem main character needs to solve.
- 2 Includes only a sketchy idea of the problem.
- 1 Includes an unrelated problem.
- 0 Does not include problem.

Events

Rating (0-4)

- 4 Includes key events or plot episodes that lead to resolution. Most events or episodes mentioned are related to attempts to solve the problem, a consequence of this action and the characters' reaction to the situation.
- 3 Includes some key events and some of these relate to attempts to solve the problem, a consequence of this action and the characters' reaction.
- 2 Includes some key events but does not elaborate in them.
- 1 Includes only a few unrelated events.
- 0 Does not include any key words.

Resolution

Rating (0-4)

- 4 Ends the story so there is a sense of sequence and describes how the problem was resolved and the goal attained.
- 3 Ends the story so there is a sense of sequence and briefly tells how the problem was resolved.
- 2 Ends the story so there is a sense of sequence, but does not tell how the problem was resolved.
- 1 Ends the story abruptly.
- 0 Stops in the middle of the story.

TOTAL SCORE

STORY MAP

Beginning

Middle

Ending