



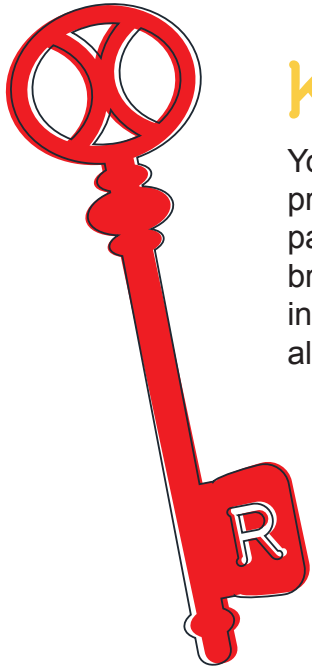
Predict What Comes Next

Keys to
Comprehension

**Ruby
Reader**

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Predict What Comes Next



Keys for the Teacher

Young children love to play guessing games. When they understand that predicting means the same as making a guess, they will be enthusiastic participants. One reason predicting is an important skill is that readers' brains become even more engaged as they think through the next step in a story. Asking them to support their reasoning with facts from the text also encourages higher level thinking skills.

Keys for the Children

Good readers think about what they are reading and make a good guess about what's coming next.

Lesson

To introduce predicting to young children, begin with a box or bag filled with a number of common items. Explain to the students that you have some clues to help them predict or guess what is inside. After explaining the meaning of predict, be sure to use both words interchangeably so the children hear them in context.

"I have something long and yellow that you hold in your hand. The end of it is pointy. Raise your hand if you can predict what is inside the box." After the children answer "pencil," ask them, "Why did you make that guess?" Then add, "How can we find out if this is true?" Most children will excitedly call out, "Look in the box." Repeat with several different items.

Share with the children that good readers can also guess or predict what might happen in a text by using the title and the cover pictures as clues. Ask students to "turn and talk" about their predictions. Then write a list of their thoughts down on chart paper. Ask the students, "How will we find out if your predictions are true?" We want children to make the connection that in books, we read to confirm our predictions. After reading the story, go down the list and encourage students to give a thumbs-up or down to show the accuracy of their prediction. Follow up by asking children to confirm using the question, "How do you know it's true?" This is the step that encourages deeper thinking by asking students to confirm using details from the text.

Predictions can be made while reading the story too. It is exciting to stop right before a big moment and quickly ask, "What will happen next?" "How can we find out?" Read!

