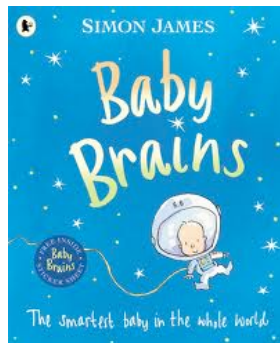


Retell Beginning, Middle and End

Baby Brains

Written and Illustrated by Simon James



Description:

Baby Brains was born one day, then reading the newspaper and fixing the car the next. Within two weeks, Baby Brains becomes a doctor and an astronaut traveling into space. All goes well until Baby Brains gets lonely and shouts, “I miss my mommy!”

Connections:

Baby Brains is a fanciful story that will delight children. There are enough interesting details in this story to remember but not so many that overwhelm the storyteller. One way to help children remember story details is by asking questions

- What happened first in the story?
- What came next?
- And then?
- And then?
- At the end what happened?
- Did we remember all the important details?

Other questions to ask...

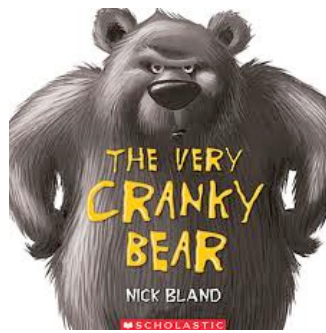
- What was the most important thing that happened in this story?
- Would you write the story the same way?
- Could this story have another ending?

If you like Baby Brains there are several others in the series...Baby Brains Superstar and Baby Brains & Robo Mom.

Retell Beginning, Middle and End

The Very Cranky Bear

Written and Illustrated by Nick Bland



Description:

During a rainstorm, zebra, lion, moose and sheep find shelter in a cave only to discover a cranky bear already inhabits the space. The story continues as the animals each try to figure out a way to calm the bear beast in the cave.

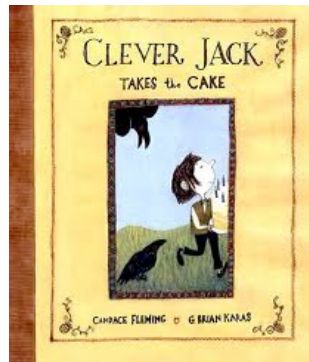
Connections:

As children begin to learn to retell stories, it is sometimes helpful to have story props. It would be fun for students to draw the faces of characters, cut out and tape them to craft sticks. The puppets could be used as props for a retell with a partner and then sent home for a repeat performance at home. Or simple costumes could be made using paper plates for masks and large paper bags, with holes cut for head and arms, for animal bodies. Students could “act-out” the story during any free time during the day.

Retell Beginning, Middle and End

Clever Jack Takes the Cake

Written by Candace Fleming...Illustrated by G. Brian Karas



Description:

Jack is thrilled to receive an invitation to the tenth birthday party of the princess. He bakes a special cake to take as a present, but the assorted characters he meets along the way each take a piece. Jack is left empty handed, but has one last gift for the princess...a story.

Connections:

This story is the perfect tale to retell because Jack himself retells the story. This gives the children an opportunity to hear a recap of the important details in Jack's voice. After reading the book, have the children "turn and talk" and give each other the gift of a story through a retelling.

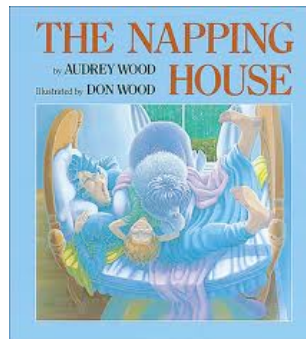
An insightful class discussion might come from asking the children why the princess thought that the story was a gift? What type of stories would make the best gifts? Would you give a story for a gift? Would you want a story for a gift?

Perhaps the children could give this story as a gift to their parents. Send a note or email home encouraging the parents to ask their children to tell them the story about clever Jack and the cake.

Retell Beginning, Middle and End

The Napping House

Written by Audrey Wood...Illustrations by Don Wood



Description:

The house is quiet while granny naps on her cozy bed. One by one, characters climb on the sleeping pile until the final flea decides to bite the mouse. Then one by one, all the characters wake up.

Connections:

This is another story that lends itself to having story props because there are so many characters. It can be loads of fun to retell this story using dolls, a doll bed and stuffed animals for the dog, cat and mouse. Trim the legs of a small, plastic black spider and you've got the perfect flea.

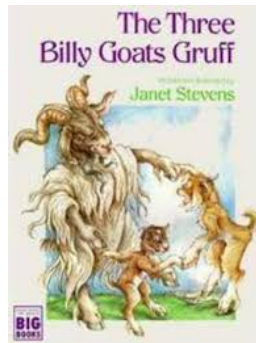
Drawing the characters in a timeline fashion can also be a helpful tool for retelling. Sketching an entire body for some children is difficult. Instead, just draw the head of each character; it's much easier.

There are many stories that can be retold using the same type of story line such as, Who Sank the Boat, The Mitten, The Enormous Carrot and The Umbrella. Discussing similarities and differences between these stories can also help develop higher level thinking skills.

Retell Beginning, Middle and End

The Three Billy Goats Gruff

Retold and illustrated by Janet Stevens



Description:

This is the classic tale of three goats that want to cross a bridge to get to the yummy green grass on the other side, while avoiding the grouchy troll that lives beneath.

Connections:

Here's an opportunity to model how to perform a puppet show for your students. Because the tale is so well known, the storyline is easy to remember. Focus can then be put on the varied character voices and puppet actions.

Puppets can be simply made from paper bags; there are even patterns online for this story that can be downloaded. Puppets can also be made from painted wooden spoons, paint sticks, marker lids, recycled cereal boxes, fun foam, meat trays and more.

Make a quick puppet stage out of a science display board to sit behind and start performing. Once you light the fire, the children will want to give it a go. Put out the art supplies and turn them loose.