

Illustrate the Story

This strategy can help:

- develop comprehension
- increase recall
- improve retention

Writers strive to create vivid worlds for their readers. Lean into the writer's intentions to help your child enhance his/her understanding of the literature by encouraging your child to draw characters and events about which s/he is reading.

This is a tremendously flexible strategy that can easily be adapted to many books. It can be particularly useful when sharing a book together. Both you and your child may complete and share drawings.

- Frequency of pausing can be set at the end of pages or chapters; but, it can also occur as the desire arises during the reading.
- The images can be drawn, cut from magazines, or downloaded.
- If the images are arranged like a story board, they can be used as a retelling activity. On the other hand, images created on individual cards can be effective as compare & contrast or sequencing resources.

Materials Needed

- Fun reading book (with or without pictures)
- Paper, chalkboard, or white board
- Crayons, markers, colored pencils
- Any other fun materials for creating pictures

Ways to support the learner

Early Elementary:

1. Read and pause after 1-3 pages.
2. What do you see in the picture?
3. What do you think is missing from the picture? Why would you add _____ to the picture?
4. What would you change in the picture? Why would you make that change?
5. Make a new picture that includes your ideas.
6. Repeat steps 1-5.
7. Who would you like to share your pictures with? Be sure to retell the story.

Elementary:

1. The author includes some pictures. However, not everything in the story has a picture. What did you see in your head that is not shown?
2. Tell me more about... Encourage the reader to give specific details about a character (clothes, height, physical characteristics, etc.), the weather, the setting, etc...
3. Create your picture.
4. Continue to read, pause, talk, and draw.

Secondary:

1. What details given by the author did you see in your mind about the setting? Each character?
2. The author includes many good details. However, often times when we read, we picture things in our mind that the author does not mention. What did you visualize in your mind that the author did not include about the setting? The characters?
3. Create your picture.
4. Continue to read, pause, talk, and draw.

Resources

Free Domain Books found online (books you can read online without cost):

1. Library of Congress: <https://www.loc.gov/free-to-use/classic-childrens-books/>
2. Project Gutenberg: https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/bookshelf/20?sort_order=downloads

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