

Story Impressions

Hurst, Fall 4043

Story Impressions

Establishes a purpose for reading

Allows a student to form an overall impression of the text through predictions.

Description: _____ Story Impressions is an exercise performed before the actual reading of the text. It allows the students to form a general idea of what a story is about.

Targeted Reading Levels: 3rd grade-college level

Text: _____ Chapter books

Major Focus: _____ Comprehension

Procedure: _____ The teacher chooses key words, phrases, or concepts from several chapters and list them in order in which they appear. The list will normally consist of 10-15 items. Students should be given enough words to form an impression of the chapters but not so many that they are able to create entire episodes that they will encounter in reading.

Activity: _____

Make a list of words similar to the following found in chapters 1 and 2 in the book *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*, by E.L. Konigsburg. Located on the last page.

Now present the words in a linked order by displaying the words in a vertical line with arrows connecting one word to the next. The students should see that the words must be used in a particular order. This strategy will help them when they encounter words or terms that are unfamiliar.

After the initial discussion, have each student write a paragraph using all the words in a given order and summarizing what he or she thinks the chapters will be about, thus creating a story impression.

Allow the students to form groups of 4 or 5, and share their Story Impressions so they can compare their predictions together.

Important tips for the teacher:

Students need to write down all their story impressions so that they will have something to reference once they have read the text.

Give students the opportunity to quickly discuss the key words so they can figure out any words they do not know.

Only list words that suggest the main idea to prevent giving away the ending.

Once the students have written and discussed their Story Impressions have them immediately read the chapters.

Alternate idea:

On another web site it suggested having the students use the words to create their own story. For example:

The first student would say, "I am running away"

The next student would then have to use the 1st word on the list **and** the second. For example the student would say, "People were running away from the museum"

The game goes on until all of the words have been used.

Assessment: The teacher can assess the paragraph written if desired using a rubric.

These words were taken from Chapters 1 and 2 out of the book *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*, by E.L. Konigsburg.

running away
museum
companion
train fare
allowance
New York City
instructions
bus
\$24.43
letters
Grand Central
courage