

Sample Read-Aloud Strategy

Where the Wild Things Are



Say: Today I'm going to read a story called *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak. Let's look at the pictures and see if you can tell me what the story is going to be about.

Do: Take the children on a "picture walk" through the book and encourage them to respond as you turn the pages of the book from beginning to end. After the children have offered their comments, say:

Say: This story is about a little boy named Max who was sent to his room without supper because he was doing things he shouldn't. While in his room, he imagines that he sails to the place where the wild things are and is made the king of all wild things. While I'm reading, think about a time when you got into trouble for doing something you shouldn't have. How did that make you feel?

Do: Ask questions that build additional background knowledge and set a purpose for listening. What did Max do that made his Mom mad? Have you ever talked back to your Mom or Dad? Why did Max give up being the king of the wild things? Once the children are familiar with this questioning technique, you can ask them to think of their own questions.

Say: Now that I've told you a little bit about the story, let's read it.

Do: Show the children the pictures as you read. Stop occasionally for reactions, comments, and questions. To engage the children, you can ask the following discussion questions: "Does anyone have a costume at home that they like to dress up in? What do you think the word 'rumpus' means?" If the children don't respond, you can model a comment by saying, "My Mom would get mad if I ran around the house causing a rumpus by jumping and roaring like these wild things."

Say: Now that we've read the story, who can tell me what happened first in the story? Second? Third?

Do: Let the children respond and ask them to retell the story using the pictures in the book to help them recall the story sequence. Finally focus on the second goal, making inferences and ask:

Say: If you were Max's Mom, would you have sent Max to his room without supper? Do you think Max was sorry that he talked back to his Mom? Why or why not? What lesson can we learn from this story?

Adapted from Mandel Morrow, Lesley & Gambrell, Linda B. (2004). *Using Children's Literature in Preschool. Supporting Reading Comprehension: Responding to Books*, 3, 37-47.

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