

# Comprehension Strategy Lesson Plans and Practice Pages

The following preview shows all of the comprehension strategy resources for *Giraffes Can't Dance* by Giles Andreae

## Making Predictions Lesson Plan

**Making Predictions**  
Giraffes Can't Dance  
By: Giles Andreae  
Grade Level: 2 / Guided Reading Level: M

**1**  
**Get Ready To Read**  
✓ Learn about the book  
✓ Get your brain ready to read  
✓ Understand the meaning of found in the book

**2**  
**Learn About Comprehension Strategies**  
✓ Think about the text you read  
✓ Know what to do when you get confused

**Summary**  
It's time for the annual Jungle Dance and the animals can't wait to show off their fancy footwork...except for Gerald, a very tall giraffe with crooked knees and thin legs, which makes dancing rather difficult. John Gerald on the dance floor and see what happens next!

**Link to What You Know**  
• Have you ever been laughed at or teased by someone? Did it make you feel? What did you do about it?  
• Do you think giraffes can dance?

**Important Words to Know and Understand**  
**Entranced** - To fill someone with delight and wonder  
**Miracle** - A very amazing or unusual event, thing, or achievement

**Why Readers Make Predictions While Reading**  
**When readers make predictions they think about what they already know and what they think will logically happen in a text.**  
Sometimes an author will give you clues about the characters, settings, or events in the book. In order to make predictions you have to pay attention to the clues and think about the story. Readers often make predictions before they start reading, during the story, and after they have finished reading. Here are some examples of the thinking readers do when making predictions:  
**Before Reading Predictions:** What the book will be about, who the main character might be, what big events will happen  
**During Reading Predictions:** What a character will do next, how a problem might be solved, what important event will happen  
**After Reading Predictions:** Which predictions were correct, why predictions were incorrect, why predictions were correct

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Guided Reading Level

Activate Prior Knowledge

Key Vocabulary

Explanation of Strategy

## Making Predictions Lesson Plan

**Making Predictions**  
Giraffes Can't Dance  
By: Giles Andreae  
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**3**  
**Make Predictions While Reading**  
✓ Look for clues that tell you what a character might do next  
✓ Look for clues that tell you about big events that might

**Time to Read**  
Stop on the following pages. Think about the questions for each page. Then talk with a reading partner or write your thoughts down in your notebook.  
**Pages 5 to 6** - Predict what Gerald will do at the dance. Does your prediction make sense? Why or why not?  
**Pages 11 to 12** - Gerald bravely attempts to dance but the animals immediately start teasing him. Predict what Gerald will do next. Would you do the same thing?  
**Page 14** - Look at the animals in the picture having fun and dancing. What do you predict the animals will do next? Why do you think that?  
**Pages 17 to 18** - The cricket gives Gerald some advice about music. Do you think the advice will help Gerald become a better dancer? Why or why not?  
**Page 26** - The animals say that Gerald is the best dancer they have ever seen and want to learn from him. What will Gerald do next? Tell why your prediction makes sense.

**4**  
**Notice the Work You Did While Reading**  
✓ Talk  
✓ Reflect  
✓ Write

**Time to Reflect**  
**Think** - What types of predictions did you make while reading *Giraffes Can't Dance*? Did you make predictions about characters, events, problems, or solutions? How did you decide whether or not your predictions made sense?  
**Talk** - Tell your reading partner about the best predictions you made while reading this book. Explain why your prediction was so helpful to you as a reader. Remember to ask your partner to share their thoughts about the book too.  
**Write** - Think about the reasons why some of the predictions you made were incorrect. What was easy about making predictions? What was difficult? How does making predictions help you be a better reader?  
**Write** - Give your strategy slip in your reader's notebook. Write about the work you did while reading *Giraffes Can't Dance*. (Remember to include examples from the book!)

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Page by Page Guide and Strategy Questions

Turn, Talk, and Reflect

**Determining Importance**  
Giraffes Can't Dance  
By: Giles Andreae  
Grade Level: 2 / Guided Reading Level: M

**1**  
**Get Ready To Read**  
✓ Learn about the book  
✓ Get your brain ready to read  
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**2**  
**Learn About Comprehension Strategies**  
✓ Think about the text you read  
✓ Know what to do when you get confused

**3**  
**Determine Importance While Reading**  
✓ Look for the main idea  
✓ Notice when you hear something new  
✓ Think about what you know about the text

**4**  
**Notice the Work You Did While Reading**  
✓ Talk  
✓ Reflect  
✓ Write

**Time to Read**  
Stop on the following pages. Think about the questions for each page. Then talk with a reading partner or write your thoughts down in your notebook.  
**Pages 1 to 4** - Notice how Gerald's feelings. He seems so confident. He is sure he will be good at the dance. What do you think will happen?  
**Pages 11 to 12** - Notice the change in how Gerald feels. He is now nervous. What do you think he will do?  
**Page 26** - What important reason does Gerald give for why he is so nervous?

**Time to Reflect**  
**Think** - How did your feelings change when you read *Giraffes Can't Dance*? Did you think you were good at the dance? Explain why your prediction was so helpful to you as a reader. Remember to ask your partner to share their thoughts about the book too.  
**Write** - Give your strategy slip in your reader's notebook. Write about the work you did while reading *Giraffes Can't Dance*. (Remember to include examples from the book!)

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**Understanding Text Structure**  
Giraffes Can't Dance  
By: Giles Andreae  
Grade Level: 2 / Guided Reading Level: M

**1**  
**Get Ready To Read**  
✓ Learn about the book  
✓ Get your brain ready to read  
✓ Understand the meaning of found in the book

**2**  
**Learn About Comprehension Strategies**  
✓ Think about the text you read  
✓ Know what to do when you get confused

**3**  
**Understand Text Structure While Reading**  
✓ Notice the main idea  
✓ Notice when you hear something new  
✓ Think about what you know about the text

**4**  
**Notice the Work You Did While Reading**  
✓ Talk  
✓ Reflect  
✓ Write

**Time to Read**  
Stop on the following pages. Think about the questions for each page. Then talk with a reading partner or write your thoughts down in your notebook.  
**Pages 1 to 4** - Notice how Gerald's feelings. He seems so confident. He is sure he will be good at the dance. What do you think will happen?  
**Pages 11 to 12** - Notice the change in how Gerald feels. He is now nervous. What do you think he will do?  
**Page 26** - What important reason does Gerald give for why he is so nervous?

**Time to Reflect**  
**Think** - How did your feelings change when you read *Giraffes Can't Dance*? Did you think you were good at the dance? Explain why your prediction was so helpful to you as a reader. Remember to ask your partner to share their thoughts about the book too.  
**Write** - Give your strategy slip in your reader's notebook. Write about the work you did while reading *Giraffes Can't Dance*. (Remember to include examples from the book!)

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Determining Importance

Understanding Text Structure

**Synthesizing**  
Giraffes Can't Dance  
By: Giles Andreae  
Grade Level: 2 / Guided Reading Level: M

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**Get Ready To Read**  
✓ Learn about the book  
✓ Get your brain ready to read  
✓ Understand the meaning of found in the book

**2**  
**Learn About Comprehension Strategies**  
✓ Think about the text you read  
✓ Know what to do when you get confused

**3**  
**Synthesize While Reading**  
✓ Look for the main idea  
✓ Notice when you hear something new  
✓ Think about what you know about the text

**4**  
**Notice the Work You Did While Reading**  
✓ Talk  
✓ Reflect  
✓ Write

**Time to Read**  
Stop on the following pages. Think about the questions for each page. Then talk with a reading partner or write your thoughts down in your notebook.  
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**Pages 11 to 12** - Notice the change in how Gerald feels. He is now nervous. What do you think he will do?  
**Page 26** - What important reason does Gerald give for why he is so nervous?

**Time to Reflect**  
**Think** - How did your feelings change when you read *Giraffes Can't Dance*? Did you think you were good at the dance? Explain why your prediction was so helpful to you as a reader. Remember to ask your partner to share their thoughts about the book too.  
**Write** - Give your strategy slip in your reader's notebook. Write about the work you did while reading *Giraffes Can't Dance*. (Remember to include examples from the book!)

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Synthesizing

**Asking Questions**  
Giraffes Can't Dance  
By: Giles Andreae  
Grade Level: 2 / Guided Reading Level: M

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✓ Learn about the book  
✓ Get your brain ready to read  
✓ Understand the meaning of found in the book

**2**  
**Learn About Comprehension Strategies**  
✓ Think about the text you read  
✓ Know what to do when you get confused

**3**  
**Ask Questions While Reading**  
✓ Look for the main idea  
✓ Notice when you hear something new  
✓ Think about what you know about the text

**4**  
**Notice the Work You Did While Reading**  
✓ Talk  
✓ Reflect  
✓ Write

**Time to Read**  
Stop on the following pages. Think about the questions for each page. Then talk with a reading partner or write your thoughts down in your notebook.  
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**Page 26** - What important reason does Gerald give for why he is so nervous?

**Time to Reflect**  
**Think** - How did your feelings change when you read *Giraffes Can't Dance*? Did you think you were good at the dance? Explain why your prediction was so helpful to you as a reader. Remember to ask your partner to share their thoughts about the book too.  
**Write** - Give your strategy slip in your reader's notebook. Write about the work you did while reading *Giraffes Can't Dance*. (Remember to include examples from the book!)

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Asking Questions

**Answer Key for Making Predictions with Giraffes Can't Dance**

**Your Turn to Practice Making Predictions with Giraffes Can't Dance**

**Pages 5 to 6**  
Predict what Gerald will do at the dance.  
Does your prediction make sense?

**Pages 11 to 12**  
Gerald bravely attempts to dance. Predict what Gerald will do next.

**Page 14**  
Look at the animals in the picture having fun and dancing. What do you predict the animals will do next?

**Pages 17 to 18**  
The cricket gives Gerald some advice about music. Do you think the advice will help Gerald become a better dancer? Why or why not?

**Page 26**  
The animals say that Gerald is the best dancer they have ever seen and want to learn from him. What will Gerald do next? Tell why your prediction makes sense.

**Answer Key for Understanding Text Structure with Giraffes Can't Dance**

**Your Turn to Practice Understanding Text Structure with Giraffes Can't Dance**

**Pages 1 to 4**  
Notice how Gerald's feelings. He seems so confident. He is sure he will be good at the dance. What do you think will happen?

**Pages 11 to 12**  
Notice the change in how Gerald feels. He is now nervous. What do you think he will do?

**Page 26**  
What important reason does Gerald give for why he is so nervous?

**Answer Key for Determining Importance with Giraffes Can't Dance**

**Your Turn to Practice Determining Importance with Giraffes Can't Dance**

**Pages 1 to 4**  
Notice how Gerald's feelings. He seems so confident. He is sure he will be good at the dance. What do you think will happen?

**Pages 11 to 12**  
Notice the change in how Gerald feels. He is now nervous. What do you think he will do?

**Page 26**  
What important reason does Gerald give for why he is so nervous?

**Answer Key for Synthesizing with Giraffes Can't Dance**

**Your Turn to Practice Synthesizing with Giraffes Can't Dance**

**Pages 1 to 4**  
What have you learned about Gerald so far?

**Pages 11 to 12**  
What do you know about the animals?

**Page 26**  
What is your opinion of them so far?

**Answer Key for Asking Questions with Giraffes Can't Dance**

**Your Turn to Practice Asking Questions with Giraffes Can't Dance**

**Pages 5 to 6**  
Predict what Gerald will do at the dance.

**Pages 11 to 12**  
Gerald bravely attempts to dance. Predict what Gerald will do next.

**Page 14**  
Look at the animals in the picture having fun and dancing. What do you predict the animals will do next?

**Pages 17 to 18**  
The cricket gives Gerald some advice about music. Do you think the advice will help Gerald become a better dancer? Why or why not?

**Page 26**  
The animals say that Gerald is the best dancer they have ever seen and want to learn from him. What will Gerald do next? Tell why your prediction makes sense.

Practice Pages and Answer Keys

# Writing About Reading with Optional CCSS Alignment

## Giraffes Can't Dance: Determining Importance

Imagine that Gerald is coming to speak at your school assembly about the Jungle Dance. Using what you learned about Gerald from the story, tell what you think he would talk about.

I can use what I learn from pictures and words to show that I understand the characters, setting, and events of a story. CCSS: RL.2.7

Strategy and Text Based Reader's Response Prompt

Common Core State Standard

"I Can" Statement

## Giraffes Can't Dance: Determining Importance

Imagine that Gerald is coming to speak at your school assembly about the Jungle Dance. Using what you learned about Gerald from the story, tell what you think he would talk about.

I can use what I learn from pictures and words to show that I understand the characters, setting, and events of a story. CCSS: RL.2.7

## Giraffes Can't Dance: Determining Importance

Imagine that Gerald is coming to speak at your school assembly about the Jungle Dance. Using what you learned about Gerald from the story, tell what you think he would talk about.

I can use what I learn from pictures and words to show that I understand the characters, setting, and events of a story. CCSS: RL.2.7

Reader's Notebook: Comprehension Strategy Slips (CCSS) | @BookPagez.com

## Giraffes Can't Dance: Determining Importance

Imagine that Gerald is coming to speak at your school assembly about the Jungle Dance. Using what you learned about Gerald from the story, tell what you think he would talk about.

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Reader's Notebook: Comprehension Strategy Slips | @BookPagez.com

Common Core Free Option

Reading Response Prompts for Each Comprehension Strategy Lesson Plan

## 5 Comprehension Strategy Graphic Organizers

**Making Predictions**  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_


Predictions of the Beginning	Predictions while Reading	Check Predictions at the End
<input type="checkbox"/> I can predict below.	<input type="checkbox"/> I can predict below.	<input type="checkbox"/> I can predict below.
<input type="checkbox"/> I can predict below.	<input type="checkbox"/> I can predict below.	<input type="checkbox"/> I can predict below.
<input type="checkbox"/> I can predict below.	<input type="checkbox"/> I can predict below.	<input type="checkbox"/> I can predict below.

Directions:  
1. Answer each of the questions.  
2. Carefully cut out the organizer.  
3. Glue, tape, or staple into your reader's notebook.

Comprehension Strategy Graphic Organizer | @BookPagez.com

**Determining Importance**  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Think about the book. Write all of the important information in the thought bubble below.



Now determine 3 BIG ideas, events, words, or facts that are important to you. Draw a picture to illustrate the most important parts of your book.

#1 \_\_\_\_\_  
#2 \_\_\_\_\_  
#3 \_\_\_\_\_

Directions:  
1. Answer each of the questions.  
2. Carefully cut out the organizer.  
3. Glue, tape, or staple into your reader's notebook.

Comprehension Strategy Graphic Organizer | @BookPagez.com

**Asking Questions**  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Question Sentence Starter: \_\_\_\_\_ Why don't... How does...  
I am confused when... I am curious about... I am not sure why...

Question	Answer
Question	Answer
Question	Answer
Question	Answer

Directions:  
1. Answer each of the questions.  
2. Carefully cut out the organizer.  
3. Glue, tape, or staple into your reader's notebook.

Comprehension Strategy Graphic Organizer | @BookPagez.com

**Understanding Text Structure**  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Text Structure	Where the Text Structure was Used	How the Text Structure Helped Me
Page: _____	Page: _____	Page: _____
Page: _____	Page: _____	Page: _____
Page: _____	Page: _____	Page: _____

Text Structure: You might see white headings: Description, Comparison and Contrast, Sequence, Problem and Solution, Cause and Effect

Directions:  
1. Answer each of the questions.  
2. Carefully cut out the organizer.  
3. Glue, tape, or staple into your reader's notebook.

Comprehension Strategy Graphic Organizer | @BookPagez.com

**Synthesizing**  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_

At first I was thinking...	My new thinking is...	I used to think...
Because...	Because...	But now I think...
Because...	Because...	Because...
My new thinking is...	Now I understand...	After thinking about...
Because...	Because...	I conclude...
Because...	Because...	Because...

Directions:  
1. Answer each of the questions.  
2. Carefully cut out the organizer.  
3. Glue, tape, or staple into your reader's notebook.

Comprehension Strategy Graphic Organizer | @BookPagez.com

Making Predictions

Determining Importance

Asking Questions

Understanding Text Structure

Synthesizing