

COMPREHENSION STRATEGY

LESSON PLANS AND PRACTICE PAGES

The following preview shows all of the comprehension strategy resources for Squirrel's New Year's Resolution by Pat Miller

Author's Purpose Lesson Plan

Identifying the Author's Purpose

Squirrel's New Year's Resolution
By: Pat Miller
Grade Level: 3 / Guided Reading Level: N

1 Get Ready To Read

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

Summary
On the first day of January, Squirrel is excited to make a New Year's resolution, but she isn't sure where to begin. As she visits her friend's annual New Year's Resolution party, she finds herself laughing along, guiding Mole and Turtle to the perfect garden spot, and cheering up a grumpy Porcupine. Everyone seems to know their resolutions except Squirrel, who starts to wonder if she'll ever find hers. But when all of her friends arrive at the diner to tell how Squirrel has helped them out, Squirrel begins to realize something important...and her New Year's Resolution might be closer than she thinks.

Link to What You Know

- Tell about a time when you helped a friend accomplish something important. What was it like?
- Have you ever made a New Year's resolution before? Tell about it.

Important Words to Know and Understand

- Bank** – The land that rises along the side of a river, lake, or stream
- Dashed** – Ran or moved very quickly and suddenly

2 Learn About Comprehension Strategies

- ✓ Think about the text
- ✓ Know what to do when you get confused

Why Readers Identify the Author's Purpose While Reading
Readers identify the author's purpose to understand why an author wrote the book. Authors write books because they want to persuade, inform, or entertain their reader.

When you read fiction (stories that are not real), the author usually includes a message or lesson that they want their readers to think about. When the author does this, they are trying to **persuade** you.

On the other hand, when you read nonfiction (books about real people, places, things, or events), the author answers questions about a specific topic. When the author does this, they are trying to **inform** you.

An author may try to entertain you by being funny, mysterious, or serious. Authors of both fiction and nonfiction can write to **entertain** you.

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Key Vocabulary

Explanation of Strategy

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Guided Reading Level

Activate Prior Knowledge

Page by Page Guide and Strategy Questions

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3 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.

Page 4 – It is January first. Make a prediction about what Squirrel's character is like, what she will do, and what the setting is like. Based on the text and illustrations, predict what Squirrel will do.

Page 5 – Squirrel pins up her calendar. Which words does the author write and what drawings does the illustrator use to help you understand the setting for this story? How does noticing this help prepare you to read?

Page 6 – Bear tells Squirrel what a "resolution" is. Why do you think the author wrote this part of the beginning of the story? Why is it important to understand what a resolution is at this part of the story?

Page 7 to 14 – Squirrel helps Mole and Turtle start a garden. What was the author's purpose for writing this part of the story? How does this scene help you to better understand Squirrel's character?

Page 15 to 20 – Squirrel feels left out. Why does Squirrel feel this way? What important message is the author trying to help you think about at this point in the story?

Page 21 to 31 – Squirrel comes up with a New Year's Resolution. What is her resolution? How does Rabbit help her? What lesson is the author trying to teach by ending the story this way?

4 Time to Reflect

Think – Pat Miller is the author of *Squirrel's New Year's Resolution*. What was his purpose for writing this book? Did she write the book to persuade, inform, or entertain you? How do you know?

Talk – Tell your reading partner what this book made you think about. What message did the author share with you? Remember to ask your partner to share their thoughts about the book too.

Reflect – Think about what you learned while reading *Squirrel's New Year's Resolution*. Think about the things you and your reading partner discussed. How does noticing the author's purpose help you to be a better reader?

Write – Glue your Strategy Slip into your reading notebook. Write about the work you did while reading *Squirrel's New Year's Resolution*. (Remember to include examples from the book)

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Turn, Talk, and Reflect

Making Predictions

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Link to What You Know

- When readers make predictions while reading, what do they think will logically happen in a text?

Sometimes an author will ask you to guess about the characters, settings, and events in a story. You can make predictions before you pay attention to the clues in the story about the characters, settings, and events. This helps you better understand the story, and often they have finished reading. Here are some ways to make predictions while reading a story.

Before Reading Predictions: What the book will be about, who the characters are, and what will happen in the story.

During Reading Predictions: What a character will do next, how something will be solved, what important events will happen, and if predictions were correct, what predictions were incorrect.

After Reading Predictions: Make predictions correct, which predictions were correct, and which predictions were incorrect.

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Page 5 – Squirrel pins up her calendar. Which words does the author write and what drawings does the illustrator use to help you understand the setting for this story? How does noticing this help prepare you to read?

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Page 7 to 14 – Squirrel helps Mole and Turtle start a garden. What was the author's purpose for writing this part of the story? How does this scene help you to better understand Squirrel's character?

Page 15 to 20 – Squirrel feels left out. Why does Squirrel feel this way? What important message is the author trying to help you think about at this point in the story?

Page 21 to 31 – Squirrel comes up with a New Year's Resolution. What is her resolution? How does Rabbit help her? What lesson is the author trying to teach by ending the story this way?

4 Notice the Work You Did While Reading

- Think
- Reflect
- Write

Summary
On the first day of January, Squirrel is excited to make a New Year's resolution, but she isn't sure where to begin. As she visits her friend's annual New Year's Resolution party, she finds herself laughing along, guiding Mole and Turtle to the perfect garden spot, and cheering up a grumpy Porcupine. Everyone seems to know their resolutions except Squirrel, who starts to wonder if she'll ever find hers. But when all of her friends arrive at the diner to tell how Squirrel has helped them out, Squirrel begins to realize something important...and her New Year's Resolution might be closer than she thinks.

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Making Predictions

Understanding Text Structure

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Link to What You Know

- When you have ever helped to cheer up a friend when they felt sick or grumpy? What do you do?
- When you have ever had to help a friend figure out how to do something? Who helped you?

Important Words to Know and Understand

- Order – When or where very quickly and suddenly
- Organize – Make a place where someone or something can be found

2 Learn About Comprehension Strategies

- Think about the text you need to do when you get confused

Why Readers Notice Text Structure While Reading
When you pay attention to the text structure, you can better understand how it is organized and how it can become a better reader.

Description – when a person, place, thing, or event is described by telling what it looks like, how it works, or what it does.

Problem and Solution – when a problem is explained and a solution is found.

Compare and Contrast – when an author writes about the ways two or more things are alike and different.

Cause and Effect – when the author explains what happened (cause) and what happened (effect).

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3 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.

Page 4 – Squirrel is using a descriptive text structure. Notice how she describes the characters, settings, and events. Sometimes pictures help you understand the text structure.

Page 5 – Squirrel is using a compare and contrast text structure to tell about Squirrel. Compare how Squirrel looks when she is at the New Year's Resolution party with how she looks when she is at the garden. How does this help you to better understand Squirrel's character?

Page 6 – Squirrel is using a problem and solution text structure to tell about Squirrel's New Year's Resolution. What is the effect of her actions? Why does answering this question help you better understand Squirrel's character?

Page 7 to 26 – Squirrel is using a descriptive text structure to tell about Squirrel. Notice how she describes the characters, settings, and events. Sometimes pictures help you understand the text structure.

Page 27 – Squirrel is using a descriptive text structure to tell about Squirrel. Notice how she describes the characters, settings, and events. Sometimes pictures help you understand the text structure.

4 Time to Reflect

- Think
- Reflect
- Write

Summary
On the first day of January, Squirrel is excited to make a New Year's resolution, but she isn't sure where to begin. As she visits her friend's annual New Year's Resolution party, she finds herself laughing along, guiding Mole and Turtle to the perfect garden spot, and cheering up a grumpy Porcupine. Everyone seems to know their resolutions except Squirrel, who starts to wonder if she'll ever find hers. But when all of her friends arrive at the diner to tell how Squirrel has helped them out, Squirrel begins to realize something important...and her New Year's Resolution might be closer than she thinks.

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Answer Key for Identifying the Author's Purpose with Squirrel's New Year's Resolution

How does this scene help you to better understand Squirrel's character?

Page 2: Squirrel pins up her calendar. Which words does the author write and what drawings does the illustrator use to help you understand the setting for this story? How does noticing this help prepare you to read?

Page 6: Bear tells Squirrel what a "resolution" is. Why do you think the author wrote this part of the beginning of the story? Why is it important to understand what a resolution is at this part of the story?

Page 15: Rabbit helps Squirrel figure out her New Year's resolution. What is her resolution? How does Rabbit help her? What lesson is the author trying to teach by ending the story this way?

Page 21: Squirrel comes up with a New Year's Resolution. What is her resolution? How does Rabbit help her? What lesson is the author trying to teach by ending the story this way?

How does noticing this help prepare you to read?

Your Turn to Practice Identifying the Author's Purpose with Squirrel's New Year's Resolution

How does this scene help you to better understand Squirrel's character?

Page 2: Squirrel pins up her calendar. Which words does the author write and what drawings does the illustrator use to help you understand the setting for this story? How does noticing this help prepare you to read?

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How does noticing this help prepare you to read?

Answer Key for Understanding Text Structure with Squirrel's New Year's Resolution

How does this question help you to better understand Squirrel's character?

Page 5: Bear tells Squirrel what a "resolution" is. Why do you think the author wrote this part of the beginning of the story? Why is it important to understand what a resolution is at this part of the story?

Page 11: Squirrel helps Mole and Turtle start a garden. What was the author's purpose for writing this part of the story? How does this scene help you to better understand Squirrel's character?

Page 15: Squirrel feels left out. Why does Squirrel feel this way? What important message is the author trying to help you think about at this point in the story?

How does answering this question help you to better understand Squirrel's character?

Your Turn to Practice Understanding Text Structure with Squirrel's New Year's Resolution

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How does answering this question help you to better understand Squirrel's character?

Answer Key for Making Predictions with Squirrel's New Year's Resolution

What words in the text and images in the illustration help you with your prediction?

Page 2: It is January first. Make a prediction about what Squirrel might do in this story.

Page 6: Bear tells Squirrel what a "resolution" is. Why do you think the author wrote this part of the beginning of the story? Why is it important to understand what a resolution is at this part of the story?

Page 15: Rabbit helps Squirrel figure out her New Year's resolution. What is her resolution? How does Rabbit help her? What lesson is the author trying to teach by ending the story this way?

Page 21: Squirrel comes up with a New Year's Resolution. What is her resolution? How does Rabbit help her? What lesson is the author trying to teach by ending the story this way?

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Understanding Text Structure

Practice Pages and Answer Keys

WRITING ABOUT READING WITH OPTIONAL CCSS ALIGNMENT

The diagram illustrates the alignment between three types of educational components:

- "I Can" Statement:** Located on the left, this is a general goal for students. A red arrow points from it to the first text-based prompt.
- Strategy and Text Based Reader's Response Prompt:** Located at the top right, this is a detailed question for students. A red arrow points from the first text-based prompt to this area.
- Common Core State Standard:** Located in the middle right, this is the specific standard being addressed. A red arrow points from the first text-based prompt to this area.

"I Can" Statement: I can find the answers to specific questions within the stories that I read.

Strategy and Text Based Reader's Response Prompt: Squirrel's New Year's Resolution: Making Predictions
Now that you have read the story, look back at the pages and choose two sentences from two different pages that may have helped you predict what Squirrel does next. Explain how certain words help you with your predictions.

Common Core State Standard: CCSS: RL.3.1

"I Can" Statement: I can find the answers to specific questions within the stories that I read.

Strategy and Text Based Reader's Response Prompt: Squirrel's New Year's Resolution: Making Predictions
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Common Core Free Option

Option

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Reading Response Prompts for Each Comprehension Strategy Lesson Plan

3 COMPREHENSION STRATEGY GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

<p>Identify the Author's Purpose</p> <p>Title:</p> <p>Who is the author of your book?</p> <p>Was the author's purpose for writing this book? How do you know?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> To Persuade <input type="checkbox"/> To Inform <input type="checkbox"/> To Entertain</p> <p>I know because...</p> <p>What do you think the author wanted you to think about while reading this book?</p> <p>Draw a picture of the most important thing the author made you think about while reading.</p> <p>Directions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Answer each of the questions. Clearly cut out the collect line. Glue, tape, or staple into your reader's notebook.
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Author's Purpose

Making Predictions	
Title:	
Predictions at the Beginning Write your predictions before you begin reading.	Predictions While Reading Write your predictions later.
	<input type="checkbox"/> correct <input type="checkbox"/> incorrect
	<input type="checkbox"/> correct <input type="checkbox"/> incorrect
	<input type="checkbox"/> correct <input type="checkbox"/> incorrect
Check Predictions at the End If incorrect write what really happened.	
<input type="checkbox"/> correct <input type="checkbox"/> incorrect	

Making Predictions

Making Predictions		
Title:		
Predictions at the Beginning Write your predictions below.	Predictions while Reading Write your predictions below.	
	Check Predictions at the End If I predicted what really happened:	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Correct <input type="checkbox"/> Incorrect	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Correct <input type="checkbox"/> Incorrect	
<input type="checkbox"/> Correct <input type="checkbox"/> Incorrect		
<input type="checkbox"/> Correct <input type="checkbox"/> Incorrect		

Understanding Text Structure