

COMPREHENSION STRATEGY LESSON PLANS AND PRACTICE PAGES

The following preview shows all of the comprehension strategy resources for *The Great Kapok Tree* by Lynne Cherry

Retelling & Summarizing Lesson Plan

Retelling and Summarizing

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

2

Learn About Comprehension Strategies

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

The Great Kapok Tree

By: Lynne Cherry
Grade Level: 4 / Guided Reading Level: R

Summary

The Great Kapok Tree tells the story of a man who travels into the Amazon rain forest to cut down a giant Kapok tree. After chopping into the tree, the man falls asleep, and one by one, the animals of the rain forest speak to him. Each animal explains why the tree is important for food, shelter, and survival. A child also appears and reminds the man that the rain forest matters to people and their ancestors, too. When the man awakes from his sleep, he must decide whether he wants to continue chopping down the Kapok tree or walk away and leave the rain forest in peace.

Link to What You Know

- Think of a time when you made a big decision and changed your mind about something. What was it?
- Think about your home or your bedroom and how it is special to you. What makes your home so special?

Important Words to Know and Understand

Kapok – A very tall tropical tree with fluffy seed pods

Pollinate – To move pollen from one plant to another to make seeds

Why Readers Retell and Summarize While Reading

Readers retell and summarize to remember the important events, characters, and information in books.

When you read fiction (stories that are not real), it is helpful to think about the sequence of events and the most important characters and settings in the story. When you retell and summarize, it is important to describe what happened first, next, then, and last. It is also important to tell who did what and where each event took place.

On the other hand, when you read nonfiction (books about real people, places, things, or events), your job is to think like a reporter. Retell and summarize the information using important facts, events, and vocabulary from the text.

Whether you are retelling and summarizing fiction or nonfiction, the most important thing to do is use your own words.

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Guided Reading Level

Activate Prior Knowledge

Page by Page Guide and Strategy Questions

Turn, Talk, and Reflect

Key Vocabulary

Explanation of Strategy

Retelling & Summarizing Lesson Plan

Retelling and Summarizing

3

Retell and Summarize While Reading

- Think about the important events that happened first, next, then, and last
- Notice the names of the characters and the settings
- Look for cause and effect

4

Notice the Work

Reading

- Think
- Talk
- Reflect
- Write

The Great Kapok Tree

By: Lynne Cherry
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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.

Cover and Inner Covers – The author and illustrator include a world map with many details. Based on the illustrations and the title of the story, what do you know about the setting of the story? How does answering this question help you as a reader?

Pages 2 to 4 – On these pages, we meet the man. What does his character do? Why do you think he does this? What details in the text and illustrations help you with your answer?

Pages 15 and 16 – On each page, the author introduces a new animal into the story. What animal do you meet on these pages? Why is the Kapok tree special to him? How does answering this question help you to better understand the animal's actions so far?

Pages 23 and 24 – A child kneels by the man. Based on the text and illustrations, what do you know about this character? Why do you think he was included in the story?

Page 31 – The man hesitates. What does he do next? How does answering this question help you to better understand his character and the lesson in the story?

Determining Importance

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

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 big ideas and supporting details
- Notice when you learn something new
- Look for new words that are important to the text

4

Notice the Work You Did While Reading

- Think
- Talk
- Reflect
- Write

The Great Kapok Tree

By: Lynne Cherry
Grade Level: 4 / Guided Reading Level: R

Summary

The Great Kapok Tree tells the story of a man who travels into the Amazon rain forest to cut down a giant Kapok tree. After chopping into the tree, the man falls asleep, and one by one, the animals of the rain forest speak to him. Each animal explains why the tree is important for food, shelter, and survival. A child also appears and reminds the man that the rain forest matters to people and their ancestors, too. When the man awakes from his sleep, he must decide whether he wants to continue chopping down the Kapok tree or walk away and leave the rain forest in peace.

Identifying the Author's Purpose

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

2

Learn About Comprehension Strategies

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

3

Identify the Author's Purpose While Reading

- Think about what the author is trying to do
- Notice when you learn something new
- Look for new words that are important to the text

4

Notice the Work You Did While Reading

- Think
- Talk
- Reflect
- Write

Answer Key for Determining Importance with The Great Kapok Tree

What words or phrases in the text help you with your answer?

Pages 17 and 18 – Four tree pods do they tell the purpose of the tree?

Pages 23 to 24 – How does or why does the man pick the monkey as his friend?

Page 6 – How does paying attention to this information prepare you to read the Great Kapok Tree?

Page 8 – Is it important? Why or why not?

Pages 11 and 12 – The bark speak to the man. What in the man's?

Name: _____

Answer Key for Identifying the Author's Purpose with The Great Kapok Tree

Why do you think the author chose to begin the story this way?

Pages 23 and 24 – For the first time, a child appears. What does he say to the man? What in the man's?

Page 31 – The man hesitates. What does he do next? How does answering this question help you to better understand his character and the lesson in the story?

Pages 9 and 10 – The monkeys chatter to the sleeping man. What do the monkeys tell the man?

Answer Key for Retelling and Summarizing with The Great Kapok Tree

Cover and Inner Covers – The author and illustrator include a world map with many details. Based on the illustrations and the title of the story, what do you know about the setting of the story?

Pages 23 to 24 – A child kneels by the man. Based on the text and illustrations, what do you know about this character? Why do you think he was included in the story?

Pages 2 to 4 – On these pages, we meet the man. What does his character do? How does answering this question help you as a reader?

Page 31 – The man hesitates. What does he do next? How does answering this question help you to better understand his character and the lesson in the story?

Pages 15 and 16 – On each page, the author introduces a new animal into the story. What animal do you meet on these pages?

Name: _____

Determining Importance

Author's Purpose

Practice Pages and Answer Keys

WRITING ABOUT READING WITH OPTIONAL CCSS ALIGNMENT

The Great Kapok Tree: Determining Importance

Think about the animals who speak to the man in *The Great Kapok Tree*. Choose one animal and explain the most important message it shares. Use details from the text to support your answer.

I can explain a story by referring to details and examples in the text. CCSS: RL.4.1

The Great Kapok Tree: Determining Importance

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Strategy and Text Based Reader's Response Prompt

Common Core State Standard

"I Can" Statement

Common Core Free Option

The Great Kapok Tree: Determining Importance

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The Great Kapok Tree: Determining Importance

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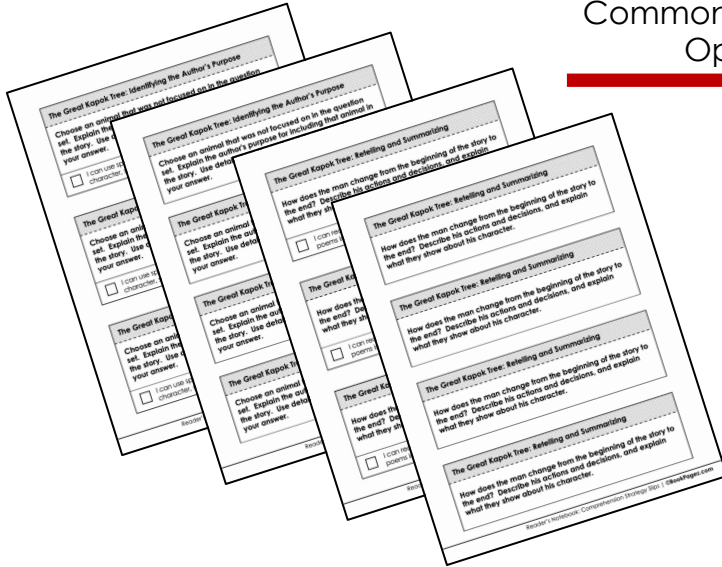
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Reading Response Prompts for Each Comprehension Strategy Lesson Plan

3 COMPREHENSION STRATEGY GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

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 dotted line.
 3. Glue, tape, or staple into your reader's notebook.

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Determining Importance

Identifying the Author's Purpose

Title: _____

Who is the author of your book?

What was the author's purpose for writing this book? How do you know?

To Persuade To Inform To Entertain

I know because...

What do you think the author wanted you to think about while reading this book?

Draw a picture of the most important thing the author made you think about while reading.

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

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Author's Purpose

Retelling and Summarizing

Title: _____

What is this book about?

Is it fiction or nonfiction?

Draw a picture or write a sentence for each box below:

First	Next	Then
After that	Then	Last

What is the most important thing you read in this book?

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

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Retelling & Summarizing