The Apple

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Comprehension strategies

- Comprehension strategies are taught throughout the Teaching Notes to enable pupils to understand what they are reading in books that they can read independently. In these Teaching Notes the following strategies are taught: Prediction, Questioning, Clarifying, Summarising, Imagining

Decodable words

Tricky words
apple, the

De = Language comprehension
W = Word recognition

Group or guided reading

Introducing the book

- Read the title and show the picture on the cover.

C (Questioning) Ask the children: Where is the apple? How many apples are on the tree? Why do you think Chip is pointing up at it?

C (Prediction) Do you think they will get the last apple off the tree?

Strategy check

Remind the children to look carefully at the pictures to see what is happening.

Independent reading

C (Questioning, Clarifying) Look at the first page of the story. Ask the children: What have the family been doing? How do you know? Why do you think they are looking at the apple? Do they want it?

C (Questioning) On pages 2–3, ask: What is Dad doing? Can he reach the apple?

C (Questioning) On pages 4–5, ask: What is Chip doing? Can he reach the apple?

C (Questioning) On pages 6–7, ask: What happens to the apple? Who missed the apple? Who got the apple?

C (Questioning, Imagining) On page 8, ask: What is Floppy doing? How does Dad feel? How does Kipper feel?

- Ask the children to look through the book and tell the story in their own words.

Assessment

Check that children scan the picture for information and notice details such as the characters’ expressions.

Returning to the text

W Point to the word ‘Apple’ on the cover. Can the children sound out the beginning phonemes?

W Look at the back cover and encourage the children to use their phonic knowledge to have a go at reading the question.

C (Questioning, Clarifying) Ask: Who picked the last apple? Look through the book to find the answer.

C (Summarising) Ask the children to tell you what happened in the story.
Group and independent reading activities

**Objective**  Show an understanding of the elements of stories, such as main character, sequence of events, and openings. Retell narratives in the correct sequence.

**Questioning**  Ask the children:
- What happened at the beginning of the story?
- Who wanted the last apple on the tree?
- How did they try to get the apple?
- What happened when the apple fell down?
- What happened at the end of the story?

**Assessment**  Do the children retell the story in the correct sequence?

**Objective**  Begin to form simple sentences.

**You will need**  word cards for each of the characters’ names and these words: ‘wanted’, ‘the’, ‘apple’.
- Write this sentence on the board: ‘Dad wanted the apple.’
- Ask the children to make new sentences using the characters’ names and putting the word cards in the correct sequence to make the sentence.

**Assessment**  Do the children correctly sequence the words?

**Objective**  Link sounds to letters, naming and sounding the letters of the alphabet.

**W**  Give each child a letter of the alphabet and ask them to think of a fruit which begins with that letter. Draw a picture of it and write the word underneath.
- Arrange the pages into alphabetical order to make a class alphabet book.

**Assessment**  Do the children correctly identify the initial letter of the fruit?

Speaking, listening and drama activities

**Objective**  Use talk to organise, sequence and clarify thinking, ideas, feelings and events. Interact with others. Use language to imagine and recreate roles and experiences.

- Ask the children to say whether they like the ending of the story. Ask: Do they think it was fair that Floppy got the apple? Who do they think should have got the apple? Ask them to give reasons why.

Writing activities

**Objective**  Use phonic knowledge to write simple regular words and make phonetically plausible attempts at more complex words. Attempt writing for various purposes.

- Ask the children to draw a picture of an apple tree and put labels on all the parts of it.

**Assessment**  Do their spelling attempts show phonic knowledge?