

## The Willow Pattern Plot

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<p><b>Comprehension strategies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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: <i>Prediction, Questioning, Clarifying, Summarising, Imagining</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Tricky words</b></p> <p>bought, called, caught, cruel, friends, gasped, heard, loved, oh, ready, something, sound, waited</p> <p><b>C</b> = Language comprehension</p> <p><b>W</b> = Word recognition</p>
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### Group or guided reading

#### Introducing the book

- Discuss the cover and read the title with the children. Establish any knowledge the children may already have about willow pattern pottery.
- C** (**Prediction**) Ask the children to read the back cover blurb and ask them to say what they think will happen in the story.
- Look briefly through the book to confirm the children's ideas. Use some of the decodable and tricky words as you discuss some of the pictures.

#### Strategy check

Remind the children to try various strategies to work out new or unfamiliar words.

#### Independent reading

- Ask the children to read the story. Praise and encourage them while they read, and prompt as necessary.
- C** (**Clarifying**) Ask occasional questions about the story to make sure the children understand what is happening: *Why are the people in the story dressed differently from Biff, Chip and Nadim? Why did the guards trip over on the bridge?*
- C** (**Summarising**) Ask children to retell the story in just four or five sentences.

**Assessment** Check that children:

- use phonic knowledge to sound out and blend the phonemes in words, particularly the tricky words
- read with appropriate expression, pausing at commas, and changing tone for exclamations and questions.

#### Returning to the text

- C** (**Questioning, Clarifying**) Ask the children: *Why was Kim Shee unhappy? Why couldn't she marry Chang, the man she loved? Why do you think her father wanted her to marry a rich man?*
- C** (**Summarising, Prediction**) Ask children to describe the land where Chang and Kim live. Ask: *Which country do you think this story is set in?* (China).
- W** On page 11 point to the word 'cruel' and help children to sound it out. Point out how 'uel' makes one sound.
- C** (**Imagining**) Look at pages 8–9. Ask the children to imagine living in a world that was just one colour. Ask: *Would you like it? Which colour would you choose? What colours would you miss?*

## Group and independent reading activities

**Objective** Read independently and with increasing fluency longer and less familiar texts. Know how to tackle unfamiliar words that are not completely decodable.

**W** Ask children to read pages 1–3 alone.

- Ask them to copy down any words they find difficult. Pool the words and ask volunteers to suggest strategies for working them out.
- Ask children to spell the word without looking at it. Repeat for the next few pages of the story.

**Assessment** Do the children suggest a range of strategies for working out the words?

**Objective** Spell with increasing accuracy and confidence, drawing on word recognition and knowledge of word structure, and spelling patterns.

**You will need** to write the following words on the board: 'like', 'kind', 'do', 'appear', 'tidy'.

**W** Talk about how the prefixes 'un-' and 'dis-' can change words to mean the opposite.

- Write the word 'happy' on the board and ask the children to find the opposite meaning in the text (page 10).
- Look at the words on the board and ask the children to add the correct prefix to give them the opposite meaning.
- Ask the children to use a word bank or dictionary to add other similar words to the list.

**Assessment** Do the children reread the word to check it sounds right?

**Objective** Read and spell less common alternative graphemes including trigraphs.

**W** Turn to page 19 and ask the children to find the word 'garden'.

- Ask them which two letters make the sound 'ar'.
- Ask them to find another two words on the same page in which three letters make the same sound ('uar' in 'guards' and 'ten' in 'listen').
- Ask the children to look at page 20 and find a word where four letters make one sound ('augh' in 'caught').

**Assessment** Are the children able to work out the sounds in the word 'afraid'?

**Objective** Draw together ideas and information from across a whole text.

**G** (**Summarising**) Ask the children to turn to pages 8 and 9, read the description of the garden and look at the illustration.

- Ask them to tell you the key features of the landscape.
- Write the children's suggestions on the board, e.g. 'bridge', 'house', 'lake', 'lemon trees'.
- Encourage the children to tell you what happened at each place.
- Some children could attempt to draw a map of the garden, writing labels and captions to show the events of the story.

**Assessment** Do the children use the text to retrieve information?

**Objective** Explain their reactions to texts, commenting on important aspects.

**G** (**Clarifying, Imagining**) Ask the children to reread the story from page 10, focusing on the sentences that describe Kim Shee's father.

- Invite children to tell you what sort of person Kim Shee's father is. Record their descriptions on the board.
- Ask: *How do you think he felt after his daughter had run away? What advice would you give him?*
- Ask: *Would the story have been the same if he had let Kim Shee see Chang?*

**Assessment** Do the children refer to the text and illustrations for details?

## Speaking, listening and drama activities

**Objective** Respond to presentations...commenting constructively. Adopt appropriate roles in small or large groups and consider alternative courses of action. Present part of traditional stories and their own stories for members of their own class.

- Ask the children to work with a partner. Tell them to take the roles of Kim and Chang and to read the dialogue from pages 13–16 as if it were a play.
- Next, ask them to make up their own dialogue, but this time to imagine that Chang has his own plan on how he and Kim can get away from the garden. Ask: *What route of escape has he planned?* (e.g. under the bridge). *What items will he bring to help them?* (e.g. a boat).
- Ask some of the children to perform their new dialogue to the rest of the class or group. Encourage the ‘audience’ to comment constructively on the group’s performance.

## Writing activities

**Objective** Draw on knowledge and experience of texts in deciding and planning what and how to write. Compose sentences using tense consistently.

- If possible, show some willow pattern plates to the children.
- Read Nadim’s words on the last page to the children.
- Ask them to suggest other stories for the willow pattern plate. Model how to write some of their suggestions as opening sentences in the past tense.
- Ask the children to write their own willow pattern stories and illustrate them in blue and white for a class display.

**Assessment** Is the story well-organised and carefully illustrated?

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