

Learning together

Getting an Overview to Prepare for Reading

ACTIVITY #1

SEQUENCE: STRATEGIES BEFORE READING —
PREPARING TO READ — 2ND CYCLE - PRIMARY

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Purpose of the activity

Let's say your child is about to read something new. It could be a short text or a book. Maybe it is a story or an informational text. But how do you prepare your child to start reading it? Today, we will discuss a first strategy: getting an overview.



Relevance of the activity

Your child must use multiple cognitive resources at once, which can be very demanding! By getting an overview of the text or book to read, your child will be able to get a general idea of its content.



Supplies

Two texts (or books):

- one that tells a story
- one that informs (see appendix)



LET'S GO!

Explain the activity:



Today, we will prepare for reading by getting an overview of the text.

Explain why:



Getting an overview of a text or a book is a bit like watching a trailer for a film: It gives us a glimpse into what we are about to watch. It's the same in reading: When you skim through a book or text, you can get an idea of the topic that will be covered or the story that will be told to you. This strategy can also help you make predictions afterwards.

Explain when:



You can skim through a book or text before you begin reading, whether it's a book that tells a story or an informational text about a specific topic.

Try it together:



When you are preparing to read, you can start by getting an overview to collect as many clues as possible.

These clues will allow you to predict the content or help you choose a book, for example. To help you understand better, we will take a look at two different texts: one that tells a story and the other that is informational.

Here are the clues that can be observed when getting an overview of a text. (Analyze the elements below for the two texts chosen previously)

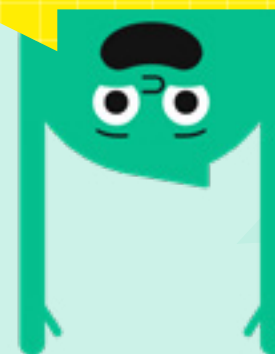
- The cover page:
 - Title: gives us clues about the subject
 - Author (the person who wrote the text)
 - Illustrator (the person who made the illustrations)
- Back cover (summary, overview)
- Illustrations
- Tables, diagrams
- Words in bold or italics
- How the text is organized
 - Title, subheadings
 - Paragraphs



You see, by skimming through, we have a better idea of what we are about to read. In addition, it gives us clues about the type of text we are reading. And remember that this strategy can help you choose a book that interests you.

Quick tips!

Getting an overview of the text can also help your child choose a book at the library... thanks to the clues they can observe!



A Voyage Through Forests

Dear Adventurers, come and discover our beautiful forests!
Forests are like large families of trees, each with its own mystery.
Slip on your boots and get ready for an incredible adventure!

Rainforests

Welcome to the rainforest! Imagine you are walking through a **jungle** where the trees are so high that they block the sun's rays. Here, there is a lot of shiny foliage. Did you know that rainforests are located **near the equator**, where it is always hot and humid? They are home to exotic animals such as monkeys and colourful parrots. Unfortunately, tropical forests and the animals that live in them are not immune to deforestation.



Boreal forests

Now imagine a forest where the trees are covered with sparkling snow. Also called taiga, the boreal forest is found in countries where it is very cold, such as **northern Canada** and **Russia**. In these forests, we find **conifers** such as firs, spruce and tamaracks. Because of climate change, snow is melting earlier, affecting the growth of trees and shrubs, as well as the way of life of the animals that live there, such as black bears.



Temperate forests

We end our voyage in the temperate forests. Here we find **conifers**, but also hardwoods such as **maple and birch**. This type of forest is found in **Europe and North America**. The colour of the trees' leaves changes with the seasons, putting on a spectacular show, especially in autumn. Throughout the year, you see different species of bird, squirrel and deer. Temperate forests are increasingly affected by forest fires because the weather is warmer and there is less precipitation.



Lastly, forests give us fresh air and are home to a wide variety of animals, both big and small! They're the lungs of the Earth. By taking care of our planet and planting trees, we can help protect these beautiful places for generations to come.



See you soon for another adventure,
Jean Bouleau