

Learning together

Getting an Overview to Prepare for Reading

ACTIVITY #1

SEQUENCE: READING STRATEGIES –
1ST CYCLE – PRIMARY

By Marie-Lou Laplante,
Educational Specialist, for Institut TA



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 get your child ready to read it? And how can that help them? Today, we will discuss a first strategy: getting an overview of a book or text.



Relevance of the activity

In the early years of elementary school, your child is learning new ways to recognize written words. This takes a lot of mental effort! That's why it is important to get ready before reading.



Supplies

- Text *Flamie, the Pink Flamingo!* (see Appendix)

To carry out this activity, you can also use:

- a story from the reading materials your child uses at school;
- a storybook adapted to your child's reading level.



LET'S GO!

What?



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

Why?



By taking a quick look at the text, you can get an idea of what it will be about or the story you will read. This strategy can also help you make predictions.

When?



Do a quick preview before you start reading.

How?



When we want to get ready to read, we start with a quick preview to gather as many clues as possible. These clues will help us predict the content or help us choose a book, for example. To help you better understand, we will do a quick preview of the text *Flamie, the Pink Flamingo!*

Here are the clues we can look at when previewing.

- The front cover:
 - The title: it gives us clues about the topic;
 - The author (the person who wrote the text);
 - The illustrator (the person who made the illustrations).
- The back cover (summary, preview)
- The illustrations or pictures
- The way the text is organized



Take the time to answer each of these questions with your child using the text in the Appendix, Flamie, the Pink Flamingo!

You see, by previewing, we have a better idea of what we are about to read. It also gives us clues about the type of text we are reading.

You can now practise this strategy with a book adapted to your child's reading level.



Don't forget!

Doing a quick preview of a text or a book is a bit like when we watch a movie trailer: it gives us an idea of what we are about to watch!



Flamie, the Pink Flamingo!

Do you know Flamie? She is a beautiful pink bird, who lives in marshes and lakes. Flamie is very elegant with her pretty feathers and long, thin legs.

Flamie likes to be with other pink flamingos. Sometimes, they band together in big groups to eat and rest.

Do you know why Flamie is pink? It's because of the food that she eats. She eats small shellfish that look like tiny shrimp.

Flamie moves around easily in the water thanks to her webbed feet. They stop her from sinking into the silt and help her to balance.

When you see a pink flamingo like Flamie, take a moment to admire their beauty. Pink flamingos are extraordinary animals!



Source: Chat GPT