

Learning together

Understanding New Words Based on Illustrations

ACTIVITY #5

SEQUENCE: READING STRATEGIES –
1ST CYCLE – PRIMARY

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Purpose of the activity

This activity helps your child, as a beginner reader, understand a text by using reading strategies. They will learn to understand new words using illustrations.



Relevance of the activity

Your child is developing letter-sound relationships and beginning to remember high-frequency words, which are essential for learning to read and write. As they are just starting to read, illustrations help them understand new words and check their understanding.



Supplies

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

To carry out this activity, you can also use:

- the texts your child reads at school;



LET'S GO!

What?



Today we will learn how to understand new words based on illustrations in the text.

Why?



To become an efficient reader, it is important to recognize words quickly. To do this, you first use strategies like breaking words into syllables and sounds. This helps you remember words you are reading for the first time. With practice, you will recognize more and more words automatically.

In the meantime, you can use illustrations to help you. They give you clues to better understand words and check if your reading makes sense.

When?



Before reading, look at the pictures to get an idea of the text. While reading, use them to help you understand and check the meaning of words, especially new ones.

How?



Some words may be difficult to decode, which can make understanding harder. To help you, we will ask questions and use illustrations to find clues. This will help you read the words better and check your understanding.

Remember that, when reading and writing, you always have to check two things:

- Is the word I read really the one written?
- Does the word I read make sense with the rest of the sentence?

*Take the time to read the text Flamie, the Pink Flamingo! with your child.
Point out the second sentence in the fourth paragraph to your child.*

Here is a sentence from the text *Flamie, the Pink Flamingo!*:

"They stop her from sinking into the silt and help her keep her balance."



Let's read it aloud together.

Some words may be more difficult. To help us, let's ask a few questions:

- **Who or what are we talking about?**
We are talking about "they," which refers to Flamie's webbed feet.
- **What are we saying about them?**
We are saying that they stop her from sinking into the silt and help her stay balanced.



If a word is difficult, we can look at the picture. We can see that flamingos are standing in the water and that their feet are webbed, like swimming fins. We can also see that a flamingo is standing on one leg, balanced.

As you can see, the pictures give clues to check if what we read makes sense and to adjust our reading.

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



Don't forget!

Ask your child to point to what matches the word in the picture.
This action helps make the connection between the written word and the illustration.



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