

Learning together

Pausing for Better Comprehension

ACTIVITY #9

SEQUENCE: READING STRATEGIES –
1ST CYCLE – PRIMARY

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Purpose of the activity

The goal of this activity is to learn to pause during reading to ask yourself what is most important to remember.



Relevance of the activity

You need to learn to pause during reading to ask yourself what is most important to remember in the different parts of the text. This will help your child check their understanding and better visualize the text.



Supplies

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

To carry out this activity, you can also use:

- texts from school that your child has to read;
- a book at your child's reading level.



LET'S GO!

What?



Today, we will learn how to stop during reading to ask ourselves what is most important to remember.

Why?



Let's look together at what this strategy helps us do:

- better understand the text
- identify important ideas
- check our understanding
- create a mental image of the text
- group information around the same main idea

When?



You can use this strategy during your reading to help you better understand and imagine the text in your mind.

How?



Let's go back to the text *Flamie, the Pink Flamingo*!

I will use the version of the text with illustrations and paragraphs so that you can clearly understand our goal:

To pause and ask yourself what is most important to remember.

Look over the text Flamie, the Pink Flamingo! with your child:

As you can see, the text is divided into five parts. These are called paragraphs. You can also see that these parts are clearly separated by spaces and an image. Each of these parts teaches us something specific about flamingos.

Let's read the first paragraph together:

Read the excerpt with your child.

"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."

I stop, then I ask myself:

- What did I understand?
- What is important?



Show the corresponding sentences in the text during the explanation:

Hmm, we are talking about a bird, more specifically a pink flamingo. We learn that she lives in marshes and lakes. We also learn that she is very elegant, with pretty feathers and long, thin legs.

If I had to explain what I just read to a friend, what would I say?

I could say that Flamie is a beautiful and elegant pink flamingo who lives in marshes and lakes. That is the main idea of this paragraph.

Let's try again with the second paragraph:
Read the excerpt with your child.

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

I stop, then I ask myself:

- What did I understand?
- What is important?



Show the corresponding sentences in the text during the explanation:

Here, we learn that Flamie likes to be with other pink flamingos. They eat and rest together in big groups.

If I had to explain what I just read to a friend, what would I say?

I could say that pink flamingos like Flamie live in groups and do activities like eating and resting together. That is the main idea of this paragraph.

At first, this may be a difficult exercise because you need to decode the words and understand each sentence. Then, you need to pause and ask yourself questions to check your understanding and figure out what is most important to remember.

You can now practise this strategy with a book that is appropriate for your child's reading level.



Don't forget!

To help you, always ask yourself:

What did I understand?

What is important to remember?

If I had to explain what I just read to a friend, what would I say?



Flamie, the Pink Flamingo!

1

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.



2

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



3

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.



4

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.



5

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

