

Retell a Story in a Foreign Language



Book Builder

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Overview

Students retell a story they know well in the language they are learning, using pictures to carry meaning.

Steps for Teachers

1. Students choose a story they already know by heart in their first language
2. Students simplify it to six pages of events
3. Students write each page using only vocabulary and structures they have studied
4. Students choose pictures that make each page understandable without translation
5. Students check their work against a word list or dictionary, not a machine translation
6. Students read the book aloud to a partner, who retells it back in the target language
7. Students revise any page their partner could not follow

Example

A beginner Spanish student retells 'Goldilocks' in six pages using only present tense and studied vocabulary: 'La niña entra en la casa. Hay tres sillas. La silla pequeña es perfecta.' The pictures show exactly what each sentence says, so a reader who misses a word can still follow.

Grading Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Developing
Language Accuracy	Grammar and vocabulary are correct and within what has been taught	Mostly accurate with errors that don't block meaning	Errors make several pages hard to understand
Comprehensibility	A classmate at the same level can read it without help	Mostly followable with a few sticking points	A classmate needs translation to follow it
Picture Support	Images carry the meaning of every page independently	Images support most pages	Images are decorative and don't aid comprehension
Book Craft	Text is easy to read, art supports every page, and the layout is consistent throughout	Pages are readable with some crowding or uneven placement	Text overlaps art or is hard to read; layout is inconsistent