

Retell from Another Character's Perspective



Book Builder

LANGUAGE ARTS

Overview

Students retell a familiar story through the eyes of a secondary character, practising point of view and empathy.

Steps for Teachers

1. Read or review a story the whole class knows well
2. List every character, including the ones who barely speak
3. Each student chooses a character who is NOT the main character
4. Students note what their character can and cannot see or know at each moment
5. Students plan pages that cover the same events, but only what their character witnesses
6. Students write each page in first person as that character
7. Students choose an actor for their narrator and keep them on every page
8. Compare finished books as a class: how did the same event look different?

Example

A student retells 'Jack and the Beanstalk' as the giant's wife. She describes a strange boy hiding in her kitchen, her husband's temper, and the moment the beanstalk falls. Her last page reads: 'Everyone remembers the boy who climbed. Nobody remembers who fed him.'

Grading Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Developing
Point of View	Stays entirely within the chosen character's knowledge and voice	Mostly stays in perspective with occasional narration the character couldn't know	Frequently slips into an all-knowing narrator
Empathy & Insight	Reveals something genuinely new about the story	Offers a believable but familiar reading	Retells events without a change in understanding
Storytelling	Clear beginning, middle and end; each page turn moves the story forward	Story is organized but some pages stall or repeat	Story is disorganized or hard to follow
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