

I can't read minds: Storytelling tips and Learning tools

Before narration:

Do the children know what a potter does? Discuss with them so they can understand the story better.

Storytelling:

- The first time you narrate the story, do it without the pictures. Ask the children to describe how they imagine the characters and their surroundings to be with descriptions of their nationality, ethnicity, the surroundings, etc.
The second time around, show the pictures from the story. Which country does it look like? An African country? Are there kids in the class that are from Africa or have visited Africa?
- Try different character voices
- At the point in the story where Ron guesses that the man is a potter, ask the children to guess how Ron could have known about it before revealing to them
- Include gestures while narrating: the potter's wife stirring the pot, the potter with his hand on his chin, Ron whispering into Don's ear, etc.

After narration:

Ask the children:

- If they have heard of ESP (extra sensory perception)? Explain what it means to them.
[Answer: Extrasensory perception (ESP) involves reception of information not gained through the recognized physical senses but sensed with the mind.
Source: Wikipedia
ESP is commonly associated with mind-reading.]
- If they have met anyone with ESP. Ask them to narrate any experiences
- To extrapolate: What other reasons can the kids think of for the man to have clay on his hands and for his wife to add lot of chili powder into the cooking pot?
- To describe Ron and Don
- What they would do if they could read people's minds
- To describe their best friend(s). What do they like most about their friends?

Extended activities:

- This story can be performed in class. With the exception of the narrator, other kids can memorize their parts while the narrator can read from a paper (If the narrator can say the story on his own, great!). This will help build confidence while talking in front of an audience and help eliminate stage fear at an early age
- Look up how potters make pots. What materials and tools do they use? What is the process to create a pot? How long does it take? What are pots used for in different cultures?

Reading Comprehension:

- Ask the children to form sentences with the words 'mystery' and 'perception'