

Using Story Retells to Monitor Children's Comprehension

- Through story retells, children learn to introduce a story with its setting and characters, recount the problem, sequence plot events, and state the solution or outcome.
- Through retelling, children reveal their comprehension of story details and sequence and their ability to add inferences and interpretations.
- To help children learn how to retell stories:
 - read the story aloud on several different occasions,
 - model a retell activity,
 - use questions or prompts to scaffold first retell attempts, and
 - use props.

Questions to Ask:

What is the title of this book?

Where does it take place?

Who are the characters?

What is it about?

What happened first?

If children leave out details important to the logical sequence of the story, ask them "how" or "why" questions to fill in what's missing.

How did...?

Why did...?

Story Retell Record Sheet

Name:		
Date:		
Story:		
Number of Times Story Has Been Read:		
Story	Child's Retelling	Prompts
Beginning		What happened in the beginning? Where did the story happen? Who were the main characters? What was the problem?
Middle		What happened next? What did ___ do? Why?
End		How was the problem solved? How did the story end?

Adapted from Morrow, L. M. (2001). *Literacy development in the early years: Helping children read and write* (4th ed.). Needham Heights, MA: Allyn and Bacon; Tompkins, G. E. (1998). *Fifty literacy strategies: Step by step*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Merrill.