

# Comprehension Strategy Lesson Plans and Practice Pages

The following preview shows all of the comprehension strategy resources for *Mailing May* by Michael O. Tunnel

## Retelling and Summarizing Lesson Plan

**Mailing May**  
By: Michael O. Tunnel  
Grade Level: 3 / Guided Reading Level: C

**Retelling and Summarizing**

**1**  
**Get Ready To Read**

- Learn about the book
- Get your brain ready to read
- Understand the meaning of important words found in the book

**Summary**  
*Mailing May* is a nonfiction book, which means that it is a true story. In 1914, a little girl named May is promised that she can go and visit her grandma who lives far away through the mountains. When it comes time for Ma and Pa to buy the train ticket, it costs too much money. May is so upset! She even tries to get a job at Alexander's Department Store to earn the money for the train ticket herself. Just when May thinks that her parents have broken their promise, Pa comes up with a very unusual, but clever solution!

**Link to What You Know**

- Think about a time that you were getting ready to go on a trip. Tell what things you did first, next, then and last.
- How do you feel when you see a family member or friend you have not seen in a long time?

**Important Words to Know and Understand**

- Slopped** - To walk slowly, usually with heavy steps
- Cranky** - Easily annoyed or angered

**2**  
**Learn About Comprehension Strategies**

- Think about the text you read
- When you get confused

**Why Readers Retell and Summarize While Reading**  
Readers retell and summarize to remember the important events, characters, and information in books.

When you read fiction (stories that are not real), it is helpful to think about the sequence of events and the most important characters and settings in the story. When you retell and summarize, it is important to describe what happened first, next, then, and last. It is also important to tell who did what and where each event took place.

On the other hand, when you read nonfiction (books about real people, places, things, or events), your job is to think like a teacher. Retell and summarize the information using important details, facts, and vocabulary from the text.

Whether you are retelling and summarizing fiction or nonfiction, the most important thing to do is use your own words.

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## Guided Reading Level

## Retelling and Summarizing Lesson Plan

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**Retelling and Summarizing**

**3**  
**Retell and Summarize While Reading**

- Think about the important events that happened first, next, then, and last
- Notice the names of the characters and
- Look for places where characters caused events to happen

**Time to Read**  
Stop on the following pages. Think about the questions for each page. Then talk with a reading partner or write your thoughts down in your notebook.

**Pages 5 to 6** - This illustration shows May in bed looking very unhappy. Tell three reasons why May might be feeling this way.

**Pages 6 to 8** - Ma and Pa seem happy, but May is unsure of what is happening very early in the morning. Use the words first, next, then, and last to describe May's early morning. Why is this an important part of the story?

**Page 15** - Mr. Perkins calls May "the biggest baby chick on record." Why does Mr. Perkins refer to May this way?

**Pages 25 to 26** - May is not feeling real well, but there is a problem that stops her from going to get some fresh air. What is the problem that stops her? How is the problem solved?

**Page 30** - Ma and Pa made a promise to May. What was the promise they made and did they keep it? What was different about the way they kept their promise?

**4**  
**Notice the Work You Did While Reading**

- Think
- Talk
- Reflect
- Write

**Time to Reflect**  
**Think** - What type of information did you use when you retold and summarized *Mailing May*? Did you stop throughout the story to think about what was happening in the book? What did you do when you finished the book?  
**Talk** - Tell your reading partner about your favorite part of the book. Tell about the characters, the setting, the events. Explain why the part you chose was your favorite. Remember to ask your partner to share their thoughts about the book too.  
**Reflect** - Think about the characters, events, and the settings in *Mailing May*. How does paying attention to the story elements help you to be a better reader?  
**Write** - Glue your Strategy Slip into your Reader's Notebook. Write about the work you did while reading *Mailing May*. (Remember to include examples from the book!)

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## Activate Prior Knowledge

## Page by Page Guide and Strategy Questions

## Turn, Talk, and Reflect

## Key Vocabulary

## Explanation of Strategy

**Mailing May**  
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**Identifying the Author's Purpose**

**1**  
**Get Ready To Read**

- Learn about the book
- Get your brain ready to read
- Understand the meaning of important words found in the book

**3**  
**Identify the Author's Purpose While Reading**

- Think about what the author is trying to do
- Look for clues that tell you the author's purpose

**2**  
**Learn About Comprehension Strategies**

- Think about the text you read
- When you get confused

**4**  
**Notice the Work You Did While Reading**

- Think
- Talk
- Reflect
- Write

**Time to Read**  
Stop on the following pages. Think about the questions for each page. Then talk with a reading partner or write your thoughts down in your notebook.

**Page 1** - Look at the illustration on the front of the book about an old-fashioned train station. How do you think the author's purpose for including this illustration is?

**Page 2** - The author tells us that Ma and Pa have to get a job at Alexander's Department Store. What does the author include in the text to help you understand this?

**Page 22 to 23** - The author tells us that Ma and Pa have to get a job at Alexander's Department Store. What does the author include in the text to help you understand this?

**Author's Note** - What is the author's purpose for including this note at the end of the book?

**Time to Reflect**  
**Think** - Think about the author's purpose for including this note at the end of the book. How does this help you understand the story?  
**Talk** - Tell your reading partner about your favorite part of the book. Tell about the characters, the setting, the events. Explain why the part you chose was your favorite. Remember to ask your partner to share their thoughts about the book too.  
**Reflect** - Think about the author's purpose for including this note at the end of the book. How does this help you understand the story?  
**Write** - Glue your Strategy Slip into your Reader's Notebook. Write about the work you did while reading *Mailing May*. (Remember to include examples from the book!)

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**Mailing May**  
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**Visualizing**

**1**  
**Get Ready To Read**

- Learn about the book
- Get your brain ready to read
- Understand the meaning of important words found in the book

**3**  
**Visualize While Reading**

- Look for clues that tell you what the author is trying to do
- Look for clues that tell you what the author is trying to do

**2**  
**Learn About Comprehension Strategies**

- Think about the text you read
- When you get confused

**4**  
**Notice the Work You Did While Reading**

- Think
- Talk
- Reflect
- Write

**Time to Read**  
Stop on the following pages. Think about the questions for each page. Then talk with a reading partner or write your thoughts down in your notebook.

**Page 18** - Use the author's description of the different parts of the train ticket to help you visualize what the author is trying to do.

**Page 19** - The author tells us that May is feeling very unhappy. How does the author use the words "sloped" and "cranky" to help you visualize what the author is trying to do?

**Page 27** - The author tells us that May is feeling very unhappy. How does the author use the words "sloped" and "cranky" to help you visualize what the author is trying to do?

**Time to Reflect**  
**Think** - Think about the author's purpose for including this note at the end of the book. How does this help you understand the story?  
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## Author's Purpose

## Visualizing

**Mailing May**  
By: Michael O. Tunnel  
Grade Level: 3 / Guided Reading Level: C

**Determining Importance**

**1**  
**Get Ready To Read**

- Learn about the book
- Get your brain ready to read
- Understand the meaning of important words found in the book

**3**  
**Determine Importance While Reading**

- Look for clues that tell you what the author is trying to do
- Look for clues that tell you what the author is trying to do

**2**  
**Learn About Comprehension Strategies**

- Think about the text you read
- When you get confused

**4**  
**Notice the Work You Did While Reading**

- Think
- Talk
- Reflect
- Write

**Time to Read**  
Stop on the following pages. Think about the questions for each page. Then talk with a reading partner or write your thoughts down in your notebook.

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**Time to Reflect**  
**Think** - Think about the author's purpose for including this note at the end of the book. How does this help you understand the story?  
**Talk** - Tell your reading partner about your favorite part of the book. Tell about the characters, the setting, the events. Explain why the part you chose was your favorite. Remember to ask your partner to share their thoughts about the book too.  
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**Mailing May**  
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Grade Level: 3 / Guided Reading Level: C

**Asking Questions**

**1**  
**Get Ready To Read**

- Learn about the book
- Get your brain ready to read
- Understand the meaning of important words found in the book

**3**  
**Ask Questions While Reading**

- Look for clues that tell you what the author is trying to do
- Look for clues that tell you what the author is trying to do

**2**  
**Learn About Comprehension Strategies**

- Think about the text you read
- When you get confused

**4**  
**Notice the Work You Did While Reading**

- Think
- Talk
- Reflect
- Write

**Time to Read**  
Stop on the following pages. Think about the questions for each page. Then talk with a reading partner or write your thoughts down in your notebook.

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**Reflect** - Think about the author's purpose for including this note at the end of the book. How does this help you understand the story?  
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## Determining Importance

## Asking Questions

**Answer Key for Retelling and Summarizing with Mailing May**

**Your Turn to Practice Retelling and Summarizing with Mailing May**

**Answer Key for Identifying the Author's Purpose with Mailing May**

**Your Turn to Practice Identifying the Author's Purpose with Mailing May**

**Answer Key for Visualizing with Mailing May**

**Your Turn to Practice Visualizing with Mailing May**

**Answer Key for Determining Importance with Mailing May**

**Your Turn to Practice Determining Importance with Mailing May**

**Answer Key for Asking Questions with Mailing May**

**Your Turn to Practice Asking Questions with Mailing May**

**Answer Key for Retelling and Summarizing with Mailing May**

**Your Turn to Practice Retelling and Summarizing with Mailing May**

**Answer Key for Identifying the Author's Purpose with Mailing May**

**Your Turn to Practice Identifying the Author's Purpose with Mailing May**

**Answer Key for Visualizing with Mailing May**

**Your Turn to Practice Visualizing with Mailing May**

**Answer Key for Determining Importance with Mailing May**

**Your Turn to Practice Determining Importance with Mailing May**

**Answer Key for Asking Questions with Mailing May**

**Your Turn to Practice Asking Questions with Mailing May**

## Practice Pages and Answer Keys

# Writing About Reading with Optional CCSS Alignment

Strategy and Text Based  
Reader's Response Prompt

Common Core State Standard

"I Can"  
Statement

**Mailing May: Asking Questions**

Pretend that you are interviewing May about her adventure getting to Grandma Mary's house. Write three questions that you would ask her.

I can ask and answer questions to show that I understand the informational text that I am reading. CCSS: RI.3.1

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I can ask and answer questions to show that I understand the informational text that I am reading. CCSS: RI.3.1

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Common Core  
Free Option

**Mailing May: Asking Questions**

Pretend that you are interviewing May about her adventure getting to Grandma Mary's house. Write three questions that you would ask her.

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**Mailing May: Asking Questions**

Pretend that you are interviewing May about her adventure getting to Grandma Mary's house. Write three questions that you would ask her.

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**Mailing May: Asking Questions**

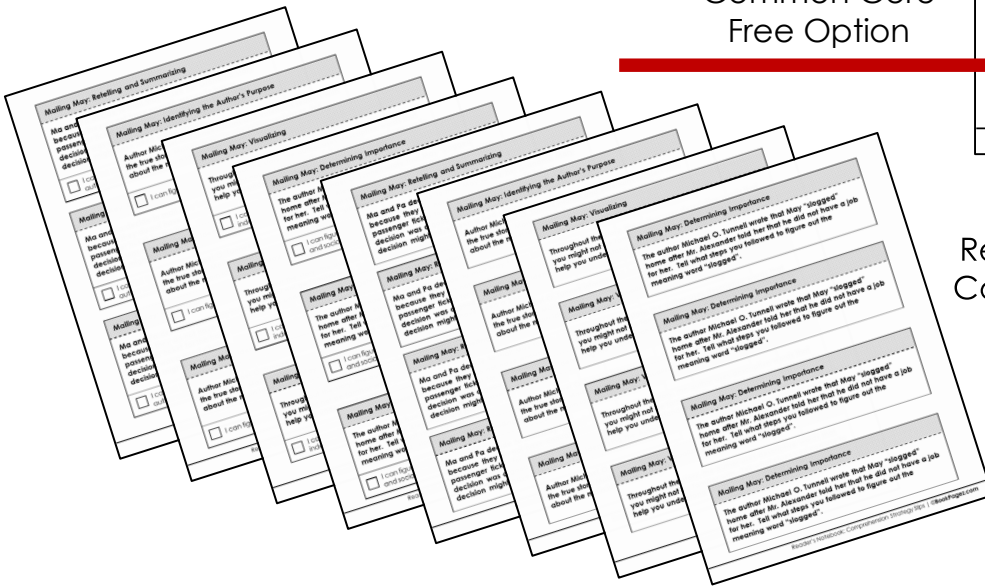
Pretend that you are interviewing May about her adventure getting to Grandma Mary's house. Write three questions that you would ask her.

---

**Mailing May: Asking Questions**

Pretend that you are interviewing May about her adventure getting to Grandma Mary's house. Write three questions that you would ask her.

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Reading Response Prompts for Each  
Comprehension Strategy Lesson Plan

## 5 Comprehension Strategy Graphic Organizers

**Retelling and Summarizing**

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

What is this book about?

Is it fiction or nonfiction?

Draw a picture or write a sentence for each box below.

First	Next	Then
After that	Then	Last

What is the most important thing you read in this book?

Directions:  
1. Answer each of the questions.  
2. Carefully cut on the dotted line.  
3. Glue, tape, or staple into your Reader's Notebook.

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Retelling and Summarizing

**Identifying the Author's Purpose**

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Who is the author of your book?

What was the author's purpose for writing this book? How do you know?

To Persuade  To Inform  To Entertain

I know because... \_\_\_\_\_

What do you think the author wanted you to think about while reading this book?

Draw a picture of the most important thing the author made you think about while reading.

Directions:  
1. Answer each of the questions.  
2. Carefully cut on the dotted line.  
3. Glue, tape, or staple into your Reader's Notebook.

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Author's Purpose

**Visualizing**

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

What page did you use to practice visualizing?

Draw a picture of your mental image in the space below:

Write down some of the words that the author used to help you make this picture in your mind.

Show your picture to someone. Make sure that you drew all of the words that helped you visualize.

Directions:  
1. Answer each of the questions.  
2. Carefully cut on the dotted line.  
3. Glue, tape, or staple into your Reader's Notebook.

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Visualizing

**Determining Importance**

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Think about the book. Write all of the important information in the thought bubble below.

Now determine 3 BIG ideas, events, words, or facts that are important to you. Draw a picture to illustrate the most important parts of your book.

#1 \_\_\_\_\_

#2 \_\_\_\_\_

#3 \_\_\_\_\_

Directions:  
1. Answer each of the questions.  
2. Carefully cut on the dotted line.  
3. Glue, tape, or staple into your Reader's Notebook.

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Determining Importance

**Asking Questions**

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Question Sentence Starter

I wonder...	Why don't I...	How does...?
I am confused about...	I am curious about...	I am not sure why...

Question	Answer
Question	Answer
Question	Answer
Question	Answer

Directions:  
1. Answer each of the questions.  
2. Carefully cut on the dotted line.  
3. Glue, tape, or staple into your Reader's Notebook.

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Asking Questions