

Comprehension Strategy Lesson Plans and Practice Pages

The following preview shows all of the comprehension strategy resources for *The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg

Retelling and Summarizing Lesson Plan

The Polar Express
By: Chris Van Allsburg
Grade Level: 3 / Guided Reading Level: N

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
It's Christmas Eve. A boy is waiting for Santa's sleigh. Instead, he sees a steam engine called the Polar Express. The train takes children on a magical journey to the North Pole where Santa and the elves give the first Christmas gift. The boy asks for one silver bell from Santa's sleigh. He tucks the bell into his pocket then loses it. He is sad. The next morning, there is a small box under the Christmas tree. Inside is the silver sleigh bell. The boy and his sister are delighted by the sound of the bell. Their parents cannot hear it. Only true believers can hear Santa's sleigh bells.

Link to What You Know
• What do you think of when you hear the words "North Pole"?
• What do you know about Santa?
• If you could ask Santa for any gift, what would you ask for? Why?

Important Words to Know and Understand
Conductor - A person who collects money or tickets from passengers on a train.
France - To walk in a lively and proud way while taking high steps.

2
Learn About Comprehension Strategies
✓ Think about the text you read
✓ Know what to do

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 researcher. Retell and summarize the information using important facts, facts, and vocabulary from the text.
Whether you are retelling and summarizing fiction or non fiction, the most important thing to do is use your own words.

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Guided Reading Level

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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

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 12 - What are some of the things the children saw on the way to the North Pole? What did they do on the train? Who else was on the train?
Page 18 - What have you learned about the elves so far? What did you learn about Santa?
Page 24 - Who was with the boy when he realized he had lost the bell? How did they react? What did they say or do?
Page 28 - On Christmas morning, something important happened. What events happened next, then, and last?
Page 29 - What do you think the theme (teamwork, family, love, friendship) of this story is? Why do you think so?

4
Notice the Work You Did While Reading
✓ Think
✓ Reflect
✓ Write

Time to Reflect
Think - What type of information did you use when you retold and summarized *The Polar Express*? 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 *The Polar Express*. How does paying attention to the story help you to be a better reader?
Write - Give your Strategy Slip into your reader's notebook. Write about the work you did while reading *The Polar Express*. (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

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Visualizing

1
Get Ready To Read
✓ Learn about the book
✓ Get your brain ready to read
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3
Visualizing While Reading
✓ Look for places where characters are causing events to happen
✓ Notice the names of the characters and

2
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Making Predictions

1
Get Ready To Read
✓ Learn about the book
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3
Making Predictions While Reading
✓ Look for places where characters are causing events to happen
✓ Notice the names of the characters and

2
Learn About Comprehension Strategies
✓ Think about the text you read
✓ Know what to do

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Visualizing

Making Predictions

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Identifying the Author's Purpose

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Identifying the Author's Purpose While Reading
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✓ Notice the names of the characters and

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Author's Purpose

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Synthesizing

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3
Synthesizing While Reading
✓ Look for places where characters are causing events to happen
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Learn About Comprehension Strategies
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Synthesizing

Answer Key for Retelling and Summarizing with The Polar Express

Your Turn to Practice Retelling and Summarizing with The Polar Express

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Answer Key for Making Predictions with The Polar Express

Your Turn to Practice Making Predictions with The Polar Express

Page 1: What do you think will happen next? What do you think will happen next?
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Answer Key for Identifying the Author's Purpose with The Polar Express

Your Turn to Practice Identifying the Author's Purpose with The Polar Express

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Answer Key for Visualizing with The Polar Express

Your Turn to Practice Visualizing with The Polar Express

Page 1: What do you think will happen next? What do you think will happen next?
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Answer Key for Synthesizing with The Polar Express

Your Turn to Practice Synthesizing with The Polar Express

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Practice Pages and Answer Keys

Writing About Reading with Optional CCSS Alignment

"I Can" Statement

Strategy and Text Based Reader's Response Prompt

Common Core State Standard

Common Core Free Option

Reading Response Prompts for Each Comprehension Strategy Lesson Plan

A collage of various reading response prompts for 'The Polar Express'. The prompts are organized into three main sections. The top section, 'Strategy and Text Based Reader's Response Prompt', shows three identical prompts side-by-side. Each prompt has a header 'The Polar Express: Synthesizing', a text box with the question 'The parents cannot hear the bell. How do their actions affect the story? What do you learn when the dad says "the bell is broken"?', and a checkbox for 'I can describe characters in stories and explain how their actions affect the story.' with the CCSS standard RL.3.3. The middle section, 'Common Core Free Option', shows a single prompt with the same text but without the checkbox and standard. The bottom section, 'Common Core State Standard', shows a stack of prompts with different strategies: Retelling and Summarizing, Making Predictions, Identifying the Author's Purpose, Synthesizing, Visualizing, and Making Predictions. Each prompt in the stack has a unique header and a specific question related to the strategy.

5 Comprehension Strategy Graphic Organizers

Retelling and Summarizing

Making Predictions

Author's Purpose

Visualizing

Synthesizing

Five graphic organizers for different comprehension strategies. Each organizer is a template for a student to write in. 1. Retelling and Summarizing: A template with a title box, a question 'What is this book about?', a table for 'First', 'Next', 'Then', 'After that', 'Then', 'Last', and a question 'What is the most important thing you read in this book?'. 2. Making Predictions: A template with a title box, a table with 'Predictions at the Beginning', 'Predictions while Reading', and 'Check Predictions at the End', and a question 'What is the most important thing you read in this book?'. 3. Author's Purpose: A template with a title box, a question 'Who is the author of your book?', a table for 'To Persuade', 'To Inform', and 'To Entertain', and a question 'What is the most important thing you read in this book?'. 4. Visualizing: A template with a title box, a question 'What page did you use to practice visualizing?', a table for 'Write down some of the words that the author used to help you make this picture in your mind.', and a question 'Show your picture to someone. Make sure that you drew all of the words that helped you visualize.'. 5. Synthesizing: A template with a title box, a table for 'At first I was thinking...', 'My new thinking is...', 'I used to think...', 'But now I think...', and a question 'What is the most important thing you read in this book?'.