

Reading Game 1

Before reading - Prediction activities

You can have fun with the text even before opening the book itself. You can use these activities as a warm-up for reading, to raise interest and activate prior knowledge and vocabulary. Activating prior knowledge is essential to understand the story. Making predictions is a skill we all use during reading.

1 Be a detective

Explain to your students that before and during reading they can think stop and think what will happen because this will help them improve their reading comprehension. Making predictions is a bit like finding clues, it is like a detective game. Ask your students to choose a book, and without opening it or starting reading the actual body of the text, they have to find clues to predict what the story is going to be about. Tell them to study the words, the illustrations, the book covers. Ask them to always support their predictions with evidence they can see or read.

2 Free association

Write the title of the article, story, poem or novel on the board. Ask your students to play a free association game and write down any word that comes to their mind reading the title. Then when they are reading the story, tell them to look for the words they thought of. Remind them to use a spider diagram to organise their thoughts.

3 Respond to the title

Write the title of the article, story, poem or novel on the board. Ask your students to work in pairs and come up with the outlines of a story for that title.

4 Bring an object that appears in the story to class.

Tell the students that these objects will appear in the book and they have to predict how it will be used and what type of person will use it.

5 Read a passage from text and then ask students to predict what is going to happen next.

Ask them to write down their ideas on paper strips and put them at the back of their books. They can revisit their predictions when they have arrived at that passage in the story.