

Retellings



Reading Skills

- Summarizing
- Identifying literature elements
- Analyzing chronological order
- Identifying the main idea
- Recalling facts

Overview of the “Retellings” Strategy

This strategy should be modeled for students before they are asked to try it. Once they understand the process, ask students to retell specific events from the novel or retell the plot in its entirety. The teacher should decide if this assignment should be written or presented orally. Students should be given a copy of the rubric that will be used for evaluation (see next page). To incorporate retellings in the classroom effectively, the teacher should model this strategy often. Remember that students need to be provided with a rubric that can be used to plan and assess retellings.

Activity for the “Retellings” Strategy

1. Have each student retell one of the following:
 - the entire plot of the novel *Wish You Well*
 - Lou and Oz’s journey from New York City to the mountain in Virginia
 - events of the story that they considered to be humorous, including exact quotes and explaining their meaning
 - Lou, Oz, and Diamond’s trip into the town of Dickens
 - what happened at the mines when Eugene went to get a bucket of coal
 - the resolution of the conflict in the novel
 - an event from the novel that they consider relevant to society today
 - events that support George Davis as the antagonist of the novel
 - events that portray Diamond Skinner as a smart boy without book learning
 - events in the novel that brought tears to their eyes, including specific quotes and diction (word choice) that prompted this emotion
 - settings in the novel that the author describes by using sensory language.
2. Evaluate the students according to the rubric shown on the next page.

Retellings

Retellings Rubric

Name _____ Date _____

Text _____ Selected by _____

Directions: Use the following checklist to rate the retelling. For each item below, circle a number from 0 to 3. (On this scale, 0 means the retelling did not include the item at all, and 3 means the retelling completely and successfully included the item.)

Does the retelling...	Rating			
1. have an introduction that includes the novel's title and setting of Dickens, Virginia?	0	1	2	3
2. list the main characters and explain their relationship to one another?	0	1	2	3
3. explain the roles of Louisa Mae Cardinal and the Southern Valley Coal and Gas Company as well as of the other antagonists and protagonists?	0	1	2	3
4. list the main events as they occur from New York City to Dickens, Virginia?	0	1	2	3
5. discuss the internal and external conflicts faced by Lou Cardinal?	0	1	2	3
6. explain how Lou's conflicts were resolved?	0	1	2	3
7. mention the reader's personal response to the novel?	0	1	2	3

Total Score _____

Comments from listener about the retelling:

Suggestions for the next retelling:
