

Picture Support

Companion Text: If You See the Moon, by Zia Wells

Subject Area & Grade Level: Language Arts, Kindergarten

Objectives

After this lesson, students will be able to:

- Experience the value of picture support to listening comprehension
- Use pictures to infer characters' emotions
- Use pictures to tell a story of their own

Pre-Reading

Show students the cover of the book, but cover up the title with your hand. Then, flip through the entire book one time through, covering the words the best you can as you go. Ask students to share with a partner what they think happens.

During Reading

Read the story once through without stopping. Then, have students work with the same partner as earlier, and discuss which parts of their predictions based on the illustrations alone were correct or incorrect. Ask students to point out any particularly illuminating or confusing illustrations. Then flip through the story again, paraphrasing the plot as you go. This time, stop on the following pages, and ask students what it appears that the characters are feeling, based on the pictures: p.5 (content), p. 6 (Cirra—nervous), p. 16 (determined), p. 22 (delighted), p.26 (stern, unpleased), p. 32 (unhappy), and p.35 (joyful).

Point out to students how much more detail you can find to enjoy in a story if you look at the pictures as well as read or listen to the words.

Post-Reading

At the end of the story, Cirra and Nimbu finally get to play in a river, catching fish and letting them go. Have students draw pictures of their favorite activities to do with their own friends, and post them all on the wall. Invite students to comment one by one on any activities they see posted that they also enjoy doing, or would like to try doing with their friends. Mention to students that you will allow for multiple interpretations of the same picture, since not everyone will notice the same details. Try to avoid having students describe (or defend) their drawings; remind students that we're not using this lesson as a chance to critique others' artistic ability, but simply to get ideas from pictures.

