

# Prediction

Being able to make predictions about a story is a valuable comprehension skill! The activity of predicting forces learners to pay attention and anticipate upcoming story events. If a child is unable to make reasonable predictions, then that's valuable information for a parent to know. It means that there hasn't yet been full comprehension of the text and that more practice with critical thinking may be needed.

Practice the skill of prediction regularly with your learners with the activities below.

- If working with one child or a small group, place post-it flags in random places in their book. Whenever they reach one, they have to make a prediction about what may happen next.
- Read a book up to the second-to-last page and then stop. Close the book and have your learner predict the ending. Finish reading the book and discuss the differences and similarities between the two versions.
- If reading a story out loud to a class, put students in groups of two or three. Stop at various points in the book and have children tell their partner (s) what they think will happen next.
- For picture storybook reading with very young learners, go through the book and look at the pictures without reading. As they look at each picture, have them tell you what they think is happening and what might be happening in the picture on the next page. Then read the story together.
- For chapter book reading, have children write a "literary guess" at the end of each chapter in which they predict what they think might happen in the next chapter.
- In a classroom or home, regularly ask youngsters what you might do next based on previous routines.
- Have students take turns talking about a book they recently read. Have them describe the basics of the story, including the problem. Have the rest of the class predict how they think a solution was reached.
- Encourage your child to read several stories by the same author. Ask her to predict the kind of book she thinks the author will write next. Then have her write a letter or email to that author sharing her prediction. How exciting it will be to receive a response!

