

How-to... Storytelling



Here is an example of a short story, aimed at young learners. The vocabulary is simple and the structures very repetitive, to encourage learners to join in. Click on the image below to open the video.



The little elephant is sad as he has a short nose and he would like to have a long nose like his Mum, Dad, sister and brother. These 4 family members are therefore introduced. In this version for younger learners, the little elephant meets 5 other animals, most of them cognates (gazelle/lion/snake/crocodile/monkey).

Greetings, expressions of feeling and the same request for help are repeated every time (Hello/ How are you? I'm not fine/I'm sad/ I would like..., can you help me?), again, encouraging learners to quickly join in and predict what the little elephant is going to say, ask and answer.

Even if pupils don't know all the vocabulary before starting the story, they can follow the story with the illustrations and try to guess words with the help of both illustrations and cognates.

Once learners are familiar with the story and the structures, they could be divided into small groups, with each group "acting" a different section of the story. Each group can also add another episode in the story, with the little elephant meeting additional animals which learners might know.

The flashcards can be used for comprehension purpose and various quick games. Distribute them to pupils, for instance pupils and get them to hold up their card when they hear their word. They could also mime feelings and animals as well as make animal noises!

Alternatively, they could sequence the story by placing the flashcards in the correct order, before acting the story themselves. If they are familiar with the written words, they could be asked to place relevant parts for the script with each flashcard, again before acting the story themselves.

We hope you enjoy the story and have fun!