

Teaching notes



- You will need an A3 copy of the story ladder per child or per group of children; cut-out story pictures; a set of the story prompt cards and a set of cut-out story prompt symbols.
- Read the story with the children and explain that they are going to retell Amy's story using a story ladder. Ask the children to think carefully about the different parts of the story:

Who is the story about – the main character?

What is happening at the beginning of the story and how are the characters feeling?

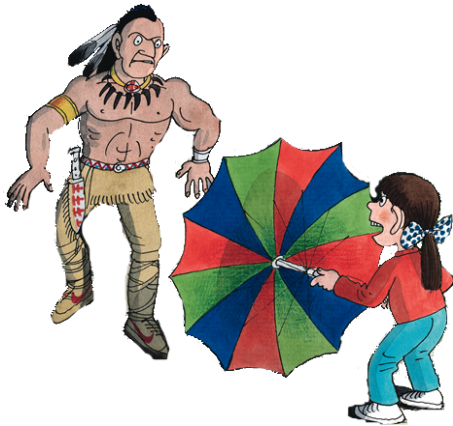
Is there a problem of some sort?

How does the problem get resolved?

What happens in the end – finally?

- Provide each child or a group of children with a set of story pictures. Can they sequence the events from the story? Now give them a copy of the story ladder. Ask them to read the first sentence starter and to stick the correct picture in place. Ask the children to suggest ways in which the sentence starter could be completed e.g. Once upon a time there was a little girl called Amy. Repeat this for the remaining pictures.
- The children now have the basic story in picture form on their ladder. Ask them to tell the story to another group of children using the pictures and sentence starters.
- Explain to the children that to make their stories even better they need to add some details such as speech, feelings, sounds and descriptions of what things looked like.
- Work with one section of the story ladder at a time. Show the children each of the story prompt symbol cards and discuss the type of detail each one is prompting them to add e.g. the heart card is about feelings. Using the 'heart' story prompt card for some ideas, the children are asked to suggest some possible feelings for the beginning of their story e.g. Once upon a time there was a little girl called Amy. *Amy was feeling very bored. She was lonely.* Stick the heart symbol to the story ladder to remind the children that they have added extra details when retelling the story later using the ladder. Now ask the children to consider what Amy could hear. Don't forget to add the ear symbol to the story ladder.
- Continue down the story ladder adding one or two details to each event using the story prompt cards. Remember to add a symbol each time to the ladder to remind the children that they have added additional information.
- When the story ladder is complete the children can orally retell the story with the added details. This retelling may need to be repeated before the children are ready to rewrite the story for themselves.

Story picture cards: Amy's story



Story ladder

Once upon a time ...

One day ...

Luckily ...

Suddenly ...

Quickly ...

Later ...

Suddenly ...

In the end ...

Story prompt cards



What are the characters in your story saying? How do they say it?

yelled replied joked nervously quietly loudly

shouted whispered gasped complained asked exclaimed



What sounds can be heard? Where is the noise coming from?

growling crunching snapping splashing whistling laughing

shouting singing voices animals wind howling screaming



How are your characters feeling?

alone nervous worried delighted afraid gloomy

bored excited terrified happy shy anxious lonely



What do your characters see? How do they see it?

looked at watch peeped

glanced at stared at examined inspected

Story prompt symbol cards

