

Stories

Introduction

I suggest each story is just read for fun to begin with. Learners won't know all the words (just like when we read or listen to a story in our own language). Research suggests that simply hearing or reading a new word is helpful. I'll write more about using stories in EFL teaching in my blog.

Here are a few ways to use the stories (in open class, individually or in pairs or small groups). You'll just need to adapt ideas to the level and the skill needs of your class. There are many other ways to use the stories, of course. I'm sure you'll have lots of your own. I'm planning to add a noticeboard to the website where your own ideas and tips can be posted.

Listening and speaking

Read the story, stopping for learners to guess what happens next.
Ask questions about the story (at the end of a second listening).
Ask learners about their favourite part of the story or about the parts they would like to change.

Listening and writing

Read the story. Learners write down 10 or 20 or 30 words they remembered (adapt to level). Help with spellings. What was the most 'remembered' word? I'd be interested to know.
Dictate short random extracts. Learners re-order them correctly.

Listening and speaking

Learners choose to 'be' a person or object in the story. They could mime their chosen identity or answer yes/no questions from others in the class. Repeat when the answer is guessed.

Reading and writing

Blank out some of the words (nouns are best). Learners choose words to fill the blanks in the way that they want to. There should be lots of possible answers.
In pairs, learners write four or five questions about the story. Pairs then exchange questions, answer them and send their answers back for checking. Walk around and help with this.
Learners add more dialogue between the main characters.
Learners finish incomplete sentences with words from the story, without looking at the text, e.g. Tom is Alice's

Reading and writing and drawing

Learners choose a part of the text then draw its picture and add a caption. Display these if possible.
Learners copy the whole story (or just a part of it) adding one or more sentences and pictures to accompany their text.

Reading and writing and listening and speaking

With learners' help, adapt the story in open class so it can be used as a role play. Learners then role play it with props.