



Parent Pipeline



CAFE Strategy: Recognize Literary Elements 1

When we read, we often recognize common elements of a story that include plot, character, setting, and theme. We use these elements to help us infer what will happen next. As readers, when we identify and understand these elements, we store this information to help us remember and comprehend what the story is about.

Literary elements work together to form the story and make it interesting. We learn literary elements separately, but we combine them when reading to give us a better understanding of the story. It is important that children specifically look for these elements as they first learn them. It is through exposure and practice that readers become good at using these elements to comprehend text.

How can you help your child with this strategy at home?

1. When reading a story with your child, discuss the character. Begin by asking your child who or what the story is about.
2. After determining the character, see if your child is able to tell you where and when the story occurs. Ask your child how they were able to determine the setting? Did he/she use pictures, words, or infer to establish the setting?
3. Continue to read the selection and discuss with your child important events that occur in the story. Ask your child what the problem is in the story and how the problem was solved.
4. Conclude the story by talking about the theme of the story. The theme is the underlying message, or meaning, of the story. Encourage your child to use what they know about the characters, setting, and plot to help determine the theme.

Thank you for your continued support at home!

* Ideas and strategies are taken from: *The CAFE Book*, written by Gail Boushey & Joan Moser
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CAFE Strategy: Recognize Literary Elements 2

Your child has already studied the literary elements of plot, character, setting, and theme. These elements assist with understanding and help a reader infer what will happen next. Now that they are familiar with these components of a story, they are ready to dive deeper and learn more. Your child is now learning about many other literary elements that add to a unified story. These elements include foreshadowing, flashback, point of view, irony, symbolism, and figurative language.

Literary elements work together to form the story and make it interesting. As your child learns more about these different elements, he/she will build on their current knowledge to gain better understanding of how to use these elements to comprehend text.

How can you help your child with this strategy at home?

1. When reading a story with your child, ask your child to name an event that is foreshadowed earlier in the story. What clues were given?
2. To revisit point of view during a selection, ask your child, "Who is narrating the story?" or "What would this story look like from (character)'s point of view?" Have your child explain his/her thinking.
3. Authors use figurative language when describing things through comparison, exaggeration, or interesting word choice. When reading with your child, look for examples of figurative language in the story and talk about why the author chose those literary devices.
4. Flashbacks occur when a character remembers an event that took place previously. Although they do not occur in every text, keep your eye out to notice and discuss when flashbacks occur in a story.

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