

Early Lesson Plan

The Sunflower Tree

Early Level 12

Lesson rationale

The students will

- Recall the sequence of the story
- Hypothesize outcomes based on knowledge of the story and the students' existing knowledge

Before the lesson

Read the book, lesson plan and follow-up activity. Organize the materials and resources required for the follow-up activity.

Reading and thinking

Talk with the students about the purpose of the lesson. Explain the comprehension strategies that they will be focusing on today.

Draw the students' focus to the back cover. View the illustration and read the caption that accompanies it. The rhetorical question it features will direct students to use their existing knowledge of growing plants. Discuss the students' replies to this question.

Introduce the book to the students by reading the title and looking at the cover illustration.

Read pages 2 to 7 inclusively.

Ask the students, *Tell me everything that has happened in the story? Out of these things what are the most important?* Encourage discussion especially the comments that refer to the text, illustrations and prior experiences to make sense of the story. This type of discussion encourages the students to be thinking readers.

Read to the end of page 11.

Ask the students what may be wrong with the sunflower.

Read to the end of page 15.

Again ask the students to recall what has happened in the story. Use terms such as 'main idea' and 'summarize' when posing these questions.

Read pages 16 through to the end of page 21. Discuss the events of the story, ensuring the sequence is correct.

Read and enjoy the end of the story.



More thinking

Set the task of retelling the story of Mr Potty and his sunflower tree. There are many mediums for this. It could be oral, pictorial or written. The task could be carried out independently or with support. Choose a means that suits the students' needs in accordance to what you want them to achieve. Remember that the information contained in the 'retell' is the focus of this lesson not the way in which it is presented. A number of the BLM would work as a tool for note taking, drafting, thought and information organization or presenting completed work.