

# The Nightingale



Once, there was a rich man who caught a nightingale. He wanted to keep it in a cage.

The nightingale spoke to him. 'Please release me! If you do, I'll give you some advice that may prove useful one day.'

So the rich man freed him. The nightingale gave this advice. 'Don't be sorry for what you can't get back. Never trust useless words.'

The rich man listened to the advice. Then he tried to grab the nightingale. The nightingale flew out of reach. Then he said, 'You shouldn't have freed me. I have a big gem hidden beneath my wing. If you'd found it, you would have been very rich.'

The rich man leaped up, trying to catch the nightingale again.

'Now I know you're a greedy and silly man', said the nightingale. 'You were sorry for something that can't be brought back. You believed my useless words. I am just a tiny bird. How could I hide a big gem under my wing?'

The nightingale flew away, free and content.

# Ballad of a Terrified Termite

This tale tells of a sad termite  
Who was a terrific builder.  
He built his mound so strong and fine  
He thought it would last forever.

*Build it up, Build it high,  
Until it reaches the sky.*

His colony lived safe inside  
The soldiers and the workers too.  
They guarded and worked all the day  
Guarding the king and making goo.

*Build it up, Build it high,  
Until it reaches the sky.*

Then one day, when it was raining,  
A deluge washed the mound away.  
The terrified termite was sad.  
The terrified termite just stayed.

*Build it up, Build it high,  
Until it reaches the sky.*



# The North Wind and the Sun – 1

## Before Reading

1. Look at the picture. Write a sentence to tell what you think the text is about.

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2. Read the title. Write a sentence to tell what you think the text is about. What do their expressions tell you?

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3. What do you already know? Write some ideas below.

the wind .....

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the sun .....

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4. What words do you think you will see in the text? Write some in the box.

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# The North Wind and the Sun – 2

## During Reading

5. Why do you think the man was wearing a cloak?  
Write a sentence.

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6. Read the first paragraph.

What did you think the North Wind and the Sun would do after they saw the man?

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.....  
.....

7. In a sentence, write who you think will win the contest and why.

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.....

8. *‘The North Wind blew a cold wind at the man.’*

What did you think the man would do? What would you do?

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.....

## After Reading

9. Do you think the North Wind will challenge the Sun again? Why/Why not?

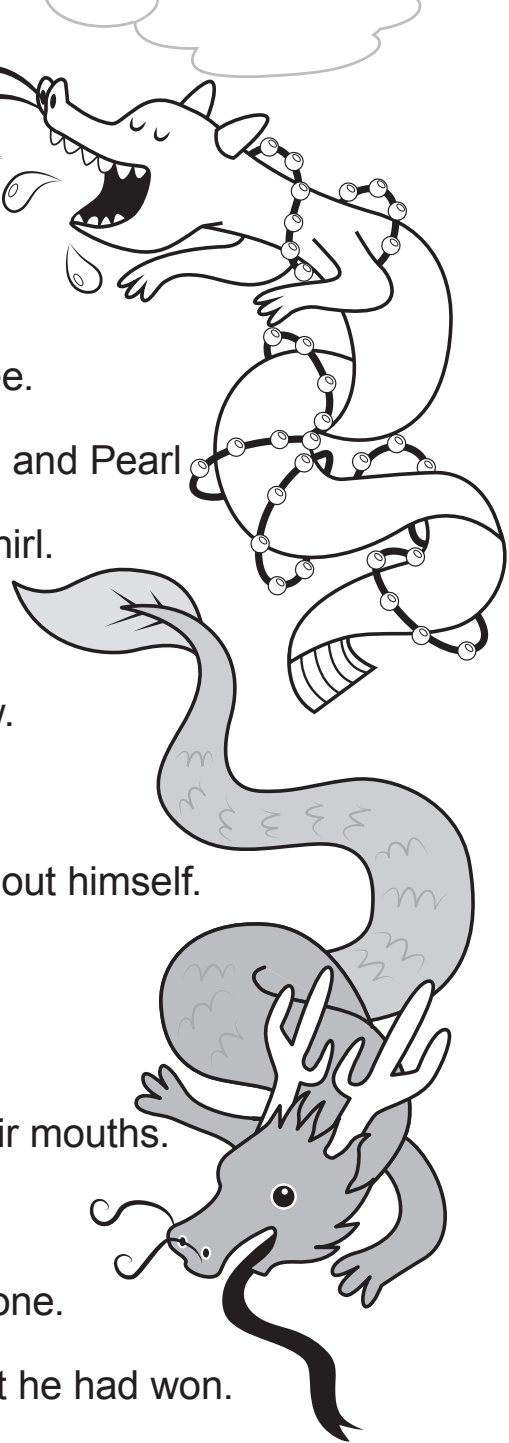
Write a sentence. ....  
.....

SAMPLE - NOT FOR SALE

# The Four Dragons



Once upon a time, in an Asian sea,  
 Lived four large dragons. They were wild and free.  
 The Long Dragon, Yellow Dragon, Black Dragon and Pearl  
 Played among the clouds with a swoop and a whirl.  
 One day they heard crying from far below.  
 People were praying for rain to make crops grow.  
 The dragons begged the Jade Emperor to help,  
 But he could not be bothered—he only cared about himself.  
 So the dragons thought of a clever plan:  
 They would help the people and save the land.  
 They flew to the sea and scooped water into their mouths.  
 They drenched the earth and broke the drought.  
 The Emperor found out what the dragons had done.  
 He buried each beneath a mountain and thought he had won.  
 But the dragons changed to rivers flowing from the mountains to the sea.  
 They watered the land and made the people as happy as could be.



**Steps**

**Before Reading**

1. Look at the picture.  
*What does the picture tell you the text is about? Discuss.*
2. Look at and read the title.  
*What does the title make you think the text is about? Discuss.*
3. Use prior knowledge.  
*What do we know about this topic? Record some ideas. (optional)*
4. Think about the type of text.  
*What do you think the text will be about? Record some ideas. (optional)*
5. *What words do you think will be in the text? Record some topic words. (optional)*  
Learn some relevant text vocabulary if necessary.

**During Reading**

6. Read the first four lines. Do not read on.  
*Do the dragons seem like nice or nasty characters? What do you think will happen to the dragons? What do you think they will do? Discuss answers. Are there clues in the text to make you think this?*
7. Read the next four lines.  
*What do you think will happen next? What do you think the dragons will do? Do you think the dragons will help? The children use prior knowledge to suggest ideas. Discuss possible answers.*

8. Read the next four lines.

*Did the dragons do what you thought they would? What do you think will happen next? Do you think the Jade Emperor liked what they did? Discuss answers.*

9. Read the remainder of the text.

*Is this what you thought would happen? What clues tell you this? Discuss.*

**After Reading**

10. *Do you think the people would be happy when they found out what happened to the dragons?*

*Were your predictions correct? (They don't have to be!)*

*When you looked at the picture and read the title, did you predict what the text was about?*

*Were the words you predicted in the text?*

*Did your predictions change as you read the text? How? Why?*

# Nella's New Umbrella



Nella bought a red umbrella. She showed it off one rainy day.

It was a splash of colour in the fog. It kept her safe from mist and spray.

Then out of nowhere came a wind. It grabbed the bright umbrella.

It tossed it high into the sky. It took with it a surprised Nella.

Nella was airborne. She was shocked to see a tornado twisting her way.

It took her from the gusty wind. Then it twirled and spun her away.

Nella was dizzy and wet. The umbrella was still clasped in her hand.

She dropped onto a large white cloud. It was high above the damp land.

Sunshine streamed around Nella. A rainbow appeared near her feet.

She jumped on board and slid to the ground. She landed where she'd left the street.

People were walking in the sunshine. They were surprised to see young Nella.

She was out in the afternoon sun. But she was cold and wet under her new umbrella.

**Steps**

**Before Reading**

1. Look at the title and the pictures.  
*What do the pictures and title tell you the text is about? Discuss.*
2. Use prior knowledge.  
*What do you know about umbrellas? Discuss some ideas and record them if desired.*
3. Think about the type of text. Look at the layout.  
*What type of text is it? How do you know? What do you think the text will be about? Record some ideas if desired.*
4. *What words do you think will be in the text? Discuss and record some topic words if desired.*

**During Reading**

5. Read the first two lines. Do not read on.  
*What do you think will happen next? What clues in the pictures give you some ideas? Discuss. Then read the next two lines. Were your predictions correct?*
6. Read the next four lines.  
*Are the events ones that you predicted? What do you think will happen next? The children use prior knowledge to suggest ideas. Discuss possible answers.*

7. Read the next two lines.

Nella was tossed about by wind, then a tornado, then she landed on a cloud. *What do you think will happen next? Why do you think this? Are there text clues that tell you? Discuss ideas.*

8. Read the next line – ‘Sunshine streamed around Nella. A rainbow appeared near her feet.’ *What do you think will happen next? Why do you think this? Are there text clues that tell you? Discuss ideas.*
9. Read the remainder of the text.  
*Is this what you thought would happen? Are there text clues that tell you? Discuss.*

**After Reading**

10. *How did Nella cope with what happened to her? How do you think you would have coped with what happened to Nella? Were your predictions correct? Did you change predictions as you read? Why?/ Why not? How? When you looked at the picture and read the title, did you predict what the text was about? Were the words you predicted in the text?*



# Battle Scars



When we stepped onto the porch, the air swirled and slapped at us. The wind lifted our hair. It blew around our faces to conceal our fright. Loud noises bombarded our ears and chills skittered along our bodies.

We viewed the tragic scene. We could see the tall tree on the hill. It was charred and broken. The scarred trunk showed proof of battle. A branch lay dead at its base. It looked like a wounded soldier. Flames waved at us where blows had landed. Who was this fierce enemy who could strike so callously?

The church steeple in the village showed similar damage. It's once-strong top tilted sadly to one side. Fires flared from the vulnerable rooftop. Dismayed faces surveyed the damage safely from the windows of their houses.

The crackle in the air dared us to approach at our own peril. What fearsome beast did this? How could we battle such an enemy?

# Battle Scars – 1

## Before Reading

1. Read the title. What do the words mean?

battle .....

scars .....

2. What does the title tell you the text is about? Write a sentence or two.

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3. Look at the picture. Write one or two sentences to tell what you think the text is about now.

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4. What do you already know about battles and scars? Write some ideas.

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5. What words do you think you will see in the text? Write some in the box.

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SAMPLE - NOT FOR SALE

## Using the Cards

The teacher first uses the **modelling text and teaching notes** to introduce and demonstrate a particular comprehension strategy. This is predominantly an oral activity.



The teacher uses the **sharing text** and works through this with the class using the teaching notes provided. This will be very similar to the way in which the modelling text was used to ensure the correct steps are used to learn the strategy. Children may work with each other to practise this strategy together.



The teacher selects a particular **card** (1, 2 or 3) depending on the reading level of the child (and after using the placement tests), and the child uses the corresponding resource sheets in the **activity book** to practise using the strategy to comprehend a text. There are two texts on each card, so children can practise the strategy using more than one text, if the teacher desires. It is best to check the activity book before assigning cards, as certain texts require questions to be answered before reading.



The teacher uses the **assessment text** in the **teacher guide** and the corresponding activity sheets to assess how well each child has learned the comprehension strategy.

- Note 1: The suggested Lexile levels for the modelling, sharing and assessment texts are levelled at the middle range for each box level. This is because the teacher and/or a peer will be working with children when using both the modelling and sharing texts to learn and practise the strategy.
- Note 2: If the teacher feels children have grasped the strategy easily and do not need any extra practice, the texts on the cards and corresponding activity pages may be used as a form of assessment.

## Scope and Sequence

Strategy	Card Number	Title	Genre	Suggested Lexile Level	Word Count
Predicting	Card 1A	The North Wind and the Sun	Fable	210L–400L	140
Predicting	Card 1B	Mooncakes	Description	210L–400L	106
Predicting	Card 2A	The Weather Machine	Science fiction	410L–600L	142
Predicting	Card 2B	Recycled Wind Chimes	Procedure	410L–600L	134
Predicting	Card 3A	Persephone and the Pomegranate Seeds	Myth	610L–800L	176
Predicting	Card 3B	Cloud Clusters	Information	610L–800L	113
Predicting	Modelling Text	The Four Dragons	Folk tale/Poem	410L–600L	154
Predicting	Sharing Text	Nella's New Umbrella	Poem	410L–600L	165
Predicting	Assessment	Battle Scars	Mystery	410L–600L	155
Visualising	Card 1A	The Wrong Train!	Horror	210L–400L	126
Visualising	Card 1B	The Golden Goose	Fairy tale	210L–400L	165
Visualising	Card 2A	Bang 'Em! Crash 'Em!	Adventure/ Recount	410L–600L	145
Visualising	Card 2B	Moving Limericks	Limericks	410L–600L	131
Visualising	Card 3A	Push and Pant	Exposition	610L–800L	154
Visualising	Card 3B	The Fastest Creatures in the World	Report	610L–800L	180
Visualising	Modelling Text	Segway™ or No Way?	Recount	410L–600L	166
Visualising	Sharing Text	Skateboard Star	Interview	410L–600L	153
Visualising	Assessment	How Hot Air Balloons Work	Explanation	410L–600L	165
Making Connections	Card 1A	The Bowan Inn	Review	210L–400L	128
Making Connections	Card 1B	Animals in Different Places	Retrieval chart	210L–400L	138
Making Connections	Card 2A	Please Keep Places Clean and Safe!	Poster	410L–600L	100
Making Connections	Card 2B	Fantastic Floating Island	Fantasy	410L–600L	142
Making Connections	Card 3A	The City Mouse and the Country Mouse	Fable	610L–800L	177
Making Connections	Card 3B	Fort Fumble	Humorous poem	610L–800L	158
Making Connections	Modelling Text	Moving Mountains	Play	410L–600L	177
Making Connections	Sharing Text	Jungle Explorer	Biography	410L–600L	158
Making Connections	Assessment	My Garden	Poem	410L–600L	128