



Let's take a book walk

Engaging in a picture book walk encourages and focuses readers. It helps readers to become familiar with texts, text structure, language features, characterisations, settings and plots in stories. It also helps students with reading comprehension skills.

How to conduct a picture book walk

After reading

1. Choose a picture book for the book walk.
2. Engage students in a discussion by asking some of the following questions.

Title of story/cover

- What clues does the title give you about the story?
- Is this a real or imaginary story? Why?
- What do the illustrations on the cover tell us about the characters, events and settings?
- What might the book look like inside?

Author and illustrator

- Who is the author?
- Who is the illustrator?
- Have you ever read other texts by this author?

Setting

- Where does this story take place?
- Is the place familiar or unfamiliar to you?
- Is the time familiar or unfamiliar to you?

Characters

- Who is the main character?
- What role might they play in the story?
- Can you predict some of the characters' traits by looking at the illustration on the cover?

Events

- What events might take place in this story?
- What predictions can you make about the story?

Story structure

- What type of story is this book? (A narrative picture book)
- How might this type of story be structured? (There will be a beginning, middle with a problem to be solved and an end where the problem is resolved).



Before reading activities should be concise and lively. Use them to encourage students to become active readers.

During reading

1. Read the picture book aloud to students.
2. Model reading behaviours using the *think-aloud* strategy, stopping at intervals and asking questions while you are reading.

Example questions

- What is the main idea of this story?
- What picture is the author painting in my head about the characters?
- What is (character name) thinking?
- Why is (character name) doing ... ?
- What predictions can I make for what might happen next?
- Do you like the story so far?

After reading

1. Discuss the story and refer back to some of the questions asked before and during reading.

Example questions

- What was the story about?
- Were any of your predictions right?
- Why do you think the author wrote this book?
- Who might read this story?