

Lesson Title: Retelling Stories

Grade Level: 1

Lesson Objectives:

- Students will retell stories with key details.
- Students will examine the structure of stories (beginning, middle, and ending) as a basis for retelling.

Learning Modalities Targeted:

Visual

Auditory

Kinesthetic/Tactile

Warm-Up:

1. Read “Keep Up, Rod” aloud to students.
2. Ask students, “Has what happened to Rod ever happened to you?” Briefly check for understanding as you discuss the story with students.
3. Tell students to listen as you retell the story to “see if I get it right” and give a silent signal (crossed forearms) when they hear an incorrect detail; demonstrate the motion.
4. Retell the story with errors—incorrect character names, setting, and problem and solution and allow students to evaluate the retelling.
5. Explain that retelling a story is an important way to check to make sure you understand the important parts of a story.

Materials Needed: “Keep Up, Rod” page; “Retell the Story” poster; “Tell Me a Story” (Keep Up, Rod) page; “Tell Me a Story” (The Race) page; “Fred Frog and Snip Snake” story; “Little Red Hen” story; “I Can Retell” rubric; stories from classroom or school library of students’ choosing; display device; notebook paper; pencils

Procedure:

1. Explain that one way to retell a story is to think about its parts. Display the “Retell the Story” poster and discuss it with the following points:
 - In the beginning, we usually learn who and what the story is about. We find out characters’ names and where the story happens. We also learn what the characters have been doing or about a problem they have.
 - In the middle of the story, we might learn about the problem if the author does not tell us at the beginning. We also learn about the events, or all the things that happen in the story.
 - At the end of the story, we find out how things end up for the characters. If they have a problem, we usually find out how it is fixed.
2. Distribute “Keep Up, Rod” and have students read the story with partners. To help students identify the beginning, middle, and end of the story, ask guiding questions such as, “Who are the characters?”; “What is the problem in the story?”; “What happens in the story?” and “How does the story end?” Model drawing a line to mark the story sections. (See the Answer Key for “Keep Up, Rod.”)
3. Refocus students’ attention and guide them in retelling the story orally.
4. Distribute the “Tell Me a Story” (Keep Up, Rod) page. Explain that the page is a map that can help put information in place to retell a story. Also, point out that students can use their own words and words from the story to complete it. Help students add details from “Keep Up, Rod” with attention to the following:
 - the characters (Rod, Miss Plum, and Jen)
 - the problem (Rod did not keep up.)
 - the events (Rod did not see the class go into the next room. Rod was lost. Rod called for Miss Plum.)
 - problem fix, or solution (Miss Plum came. Rod kept up.)
5. Call on students to use the page to retell the story out loud.

Independent Practice:

Have students read “The Race” and complete the “Tell Me a Story” (The Race) page to record what happens at the beginning, middle, and end of the story.

Note: If students need more space to write, have them re-create the headings from the map and write the story details on notebook paper.

Closing Activity:

1. Review the correct information for the retelling map and allow students to check their responses.
2. Call on volunteers to take turns retelling the story orally.
3. Review with students the important points to remember about how to retell a story.

Advanced Learner Option**Procedure:**

Have partners read stories and evaluate one another’s retelling. One partner will read and retell “Fred Frog and Snip Snake” and the other will read and retell “Little Red Hen.”

Struggling Learner Option**Procedure:**

Work with students to retell “Buck Bunny.” (See the “Buck Bunny” Answer Key.)

- Help students identify the beginning of the story, including the character (Buck Bunny) and the setting (in the woods near the rabbit hole).
- Retell the middle of the story, using the time cue words to keep the events in the correct order.
- Retell the end of the story by focusing on Buck Bunny’s actions and thoughts.

Extension Activities

- Assign students to groups of five or six and allow them to read/reread either “Fred Frog and Snip Snake” [five characters and narrator(s)] or “Little Red Hen” [four characters and narrator(s)]. Have the groups take turns retelling by acting the stories out.
- Allow students to retell previously read stories of their choosing from the classroom or school library. Have them use the “I Can Retell” rubric to evaluate their own retellings.

ELL Teaching Tips

- **Key Lesson Language:** **general** – problem, character, setting; **academic** – retell
- **Preview text**– Provide students with a text or video ahead of time so they can review or explore the material before accessing it in a class activity. Consider providing a paper copy for the Warm-Up, main Procedure, Independent Practice, and Struggling Learner Option prior to the lesson. This will expose students to the material before classroom discussions, so students can start to formulate answers and ask questions about unfamiliar text.
- **L1 production** – Allow students to demonstrate understanding of a content task by responding in their home language or by doing preparatory work in their home language before responding in English. Consider giving students the option to use their home language to prepare sentences in English prior to completing step 5 of the main Procedure, Independent Practice, and Struggling Learner Option in class.

Name _____

Retell the Story

Beginning

Who is the story about?

Where does the story happen?

What is the problem?

Middle

What is the problem?

What are the events, or things that happen in the story?

Ending

How does the story end?

How is the problem fixed?

Name _____

Keep Up, Rod

"Keep up, Rod," said Miss Plum.

"You must not get lost in our new school."

"I will not get lost," said Rod to Jen.

"I do not need to keep up."

Jen stayed with the class. Rod did not see them go into the next room.

Then he was alone in the hallway.

He did not know where to



Name _____

go, but he did not cry.

Rod called, "Miss Plum! Miss Plum!"

She came. Then Rod kept up!

Name _____

Tell Me a Story

“Keep Up, Rod”

Beginning

Middle

Ending

Name _____

The Race



Kip was sure he would win the race. He giggled at Kate and her old bike.

“You will never win on that old thing,” Kip said.

“It is a long race through the park,” said Kate. “I will not give up.

The race started. On his new bike, Kip soon left the other racers behind.

“This will be easy,” grinned Kip.

Then he saw a yellow kite stuck in a tree. “I want a new kite. I will just get this one.” Kip got off the bike and pulled the kite out of the tree.

Back on his bike, he snickered, “I got this kite, and I will win the race!”

Name _____

At the finish line, Kip saw other racers. One of them was Kate. Kip had finished last!

Kate waved to Kip. “I told you I would not give up,” she yelled as she held up the first-place ribbon.

Name _____

Tell Me a Story

"The Race"

Beginning

Middle

Ending

Name _____

Fred Frog and Snip Snake

Fred Frog wanted to play, but there was no one that he wanted to play with. There was only Snip Snake. Fred Frog said, “You are a snake, Snip Snake. I do not play with snakes.”

Fred Frog asked Mike Mouse to play.

“You are a frog, Fred Frog,” answered Mike Mouse. “I do not play with frogs.”

Fred Frog asked Benny Bee to play.

“You are a frog, Fred Frog,” buzzed Benny Bee. “I do not play with frogs.”

Fred Frog asked Oz Owl to play.

“You are a frog, Fred Frog,” hooted Oz Owl. “I do not play with frogs.”

Fred Frog felt sad. Then, he looked at Snip Snake.

“Will you play with me, Snip Snake?” asked Fred Frog.



Name _____

“Yes, I will play with you, Fred Frog. I will race you to the pond.” And off they went to have fun!

Little Red Hen

Little Red Hen found a seed. She said, “I will plant the seed. The seed will grow into wheat. I will grind the wheat and bake bread. Then I will eat it.”

Little Red Hen asked Dog, Cat, and Duck to help.

“I will not,” said Dog.

“I will not,” said Cat.

“I will not,” said Duck.

Name _____

Little Red Hen planted the seed. It grew into wheat. She ground the wheat. She baked the bread.

“Now we will eat,” said Dog, Cat, and Duck.

“No, you will not,” said Little Red Hen. Then, she ate all the bread.



I Can Retell

Listen to the retelling. Circle “yes” or “no” for each part of the retelling.

Start with the beginning of the story.	yes	no
Name the character(s)	yes	no

Name _____

Name the setting.	yes	no
Tell the problem (if there is one).	yes	no
Give the details about events, or what happens in the middle of the story.	yes	no
Tell the ending of the story, including how the problem is fixed (if there is a story problem).	yes	no

Buck Bunny



Name _____

One day, Buck Bunny made up his mind to leave the hole. First, he waited until his mom was asleep and crept to the front of the hole. Second, he sniffed the air this way and that way. Third, he hopped out into the night air away from the hole. Next, he saw a shadow on the ground. Then, he hopped back to the hole as fast as he could. His heart beat fast in his chest. Finally, he knew it was not safe to leave the hole.

Keep Up, Rod – Answer Key

Name _____

“Keep up, Rod,” said Miss Plum.

“You must not get lost in our new school.”

“I will not get lost,” said Rod to Jen.

“I do not need to keep up.”

Jen stayed with the class. Rod did not see them go into the next room.

Then he was alone in the hallway.

He did not know where to
go, but he did not cry.



Name _____

Rod called, "Miss Plum! Miss
Plum!"

She came. Then Rod kept up!

Name _____

Tell Me a Story – Answer Key

“Keep Up, Rod”

Beginning	Middle	Ending
<p>Miss Plum told Rod to keep up.</p> <p>Rod told Jen he did not need to keep up.</p>	<p>Rod did not see the class go into the next room.</p> <p>Rod was lost.</p> <p>Rod called for Miss Plum.</p>	<p>Miss Plum came to Rod.</p> <p>Rod kept up.</p>

Name _____

Tell Me a Story – Answer Key

“The Race”

Beginning

Kip giggled at Kate and her old bike.

Kate told Kip she would not give up.

Middle

Kip left everyone behind.

Kip stopped to get a kite from a tree.

Kip got back on his bike thinking he would still win the race.

Kip saw the other racers at the finish line.

Ending

Kate waved to Kip and held up the first-place ribbon.

Name _____

Buck Bunny – Answer Key



One day, Buck Bunny made up his mind to leave the hole. First, he waited until his mom was asleep and crept to the front of the hole. Second, he sniffed the air this way and that way. Third, he hopped out into the night air away from the hole. Next, he saw a shadow on the ground. Then, he hopped back to the hole as fast as he could. His heart beat fast in his

Name _____

chest. Finally, he knew it was not safe to leave
the hole.