

## **Why use storybooks?**

### **Advantages of using stories with children:**

1. Stories are motivating and fun and help develop a positive attitude towards the foreign language and language learning.
2. Stories exercise the imagination.
3. Children enjoy listening to stories over and over again.
4. New vocabulary and structures can be introduced in memorable and familiar contexts.
5. Listening to stories develops the child's listening and concentration skills.
6. Listening to stories in class is a shared social experience.
7. Through stories, children learn to predict, anticipate, reason, judge and become aware of the story shape.
8. Stories help transmit authentic rhythm and intonation: they train the ear and help the children recognize and imitate the music of the language.
9. Stories can link to other subjects the child is learning about in school.
10. Stories can introduce the child to other cultures.

### **Using storybooks-methodology**

1. Identify your linguistic objectives.
2. Provide the context for the story and introduce the main characters.
3. Explain the context, key words and ideas in the child's mother tongue if necessary.
4. Provide visual support.
5. Decide how long you will use the story.
6. Decide in which order you are going to introduce or revise the language necessary for understanding the story.
7. If necessary, modify the story to make it more accessible to the pupils.
8. Find out if there are any rhymes or songs that pupils can learn to help reinforce language introduced.
9. Decide which follow-up activities would provide opportunities for pupils to produce language from the story in different contexts.

(Brewster, J., Ellis, G., Girard, D. 1992. *The Primary English Teacher's Guide*. Suffolk: Penguin Books)

### **Story activities:**

#### *Listening:*

Listen &do

Listen &perform

Listen&identify

Listen &respond

Listen &colour/draw

Listen &make

#### *Speaking:*

Saying rhymes

Singing songs

Playing vocabulary games

Practicing new sounds

#### *Reading:*

Look &say

Phonics

The alphabet

Reading independently

*Writing:*

Classifying selected words/phrases from story books

Labelling pictures from stories

Finishing comments

Gap-filling from a story

(Slattery, M., Willis, J. 2001. *English for Primary Teachers*. Oxford: Oxford University Press)

### **Storytelling techniques**

1. Telling a story
2. Reading a story
3. Using a cassette/CD recording