

TEST DRIVE READING ACTIVITIES

LESSON OVERVIEW

Use these pre-, during, and post-reading activities to help students engage with the concepts and characters in *The Toy and the Test Drive*.

PRE-READING: UNDERSTANDING VOCABULARY

Understanding the vocabulary is essential in teaching students how to read. Help your students understand the meaning of each word listed below and use each in a sentence.

- tinkering
- solar
- battery
- gravity
- electricity
- renewable
- energy

PRE-READING: BUILDING BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

Before reading *The Toy and the Test Drive*, it is important to set the students up for success with pre-reading strategies. These strategies will help them build vocabulary development and increase reading comprehension.

- **Make predictions.**
 - Look at the book cover and read the title aloud. Have the students make predictions on what the story will be about. Have them reference words or images they see to support their predictions.
 - Have the students read the first sentence of the book aloud to the instructor or another student. Have them make predictions on what they think the book will be about.
- **Take a picture walk.**
 - Picture walks pique a student's interest. Slowly flip through the book without reading any of the text and only looking at the pictures.
 - Ask the student about the pictures, allowing them to make inferences about what they see.
- **Think-Pair-Share.**
 - This activity allows students to share what they already know about the topic and build their communication skills with their classmates.
 - Have each student think about the topic on his or her own.
 - Pair students together to share what they know with a partner.
 - Have students share what they know with the class.

DURING READING

During your reading of the book it is important to model how good readers think. Good readers think about what they read and make corrections. The best way to model this is by encouraging and generating discussions about the story. These strategies will help you model during your reading.

- **Think aloud** – This strategy allows you to model how good readers think about reading. You can do this by connecting the book to your own life experiences, connecting the book to other books you have read, or by connecting the book to a large world concept.
- **Mind pictures** – During the story, stop after reading a few sentences that contain descriptive language. Share the picture that was created in your mind. Talk about how the words used helped you create that picture. Discuss how the pictures in our minds help us understand what is going on in the story. Ask students what image they had in their minds.
- **Story sequence** – As you read the story, pause and discuss what has happened so far. Ask students to help you organize the events of the story and use transitional words such as first, then, next, etc. This modeling helps them comprehend what has been read so far and develops the ability to sequence events and retell the story.

POST-READING

After reading a story you want to see what students have comprehended. Asking a variety of comprehension questions helps you check the level of mastery. Continue to build on the learning by extending into other areas such as art, writing, speaking, or other content related activities.

After reading *The Toy and the Test Drive*, have students answer the following questions to check for understanding of the reading.

- Have you ever built something like the solar car Jack built?
- What are some of the parts of the solar car that allow Sonny to run using energy from the sun?
- Jack and Bear don't like to ride their bikes on Scary Summit. Why?
- What are some of the reasons why Sonny has trouble powering up on Scary Summit?
- Why do you think solar energy is important?
- Would you encourage your family to use more renewable energy? Why or why not?