



TellTale Teachers' Guide

Book Description:

TellTale is a book for very young learners who love stories and storytelling activities. It can be used with kindergarten children, 1st and 2nd graders. TellTale is literacy-light, in the sense that it does not ask learners to read or write anything. In terms of language skills, it promotes listening comprehension, word recognition, word patterns and chunks, phonological awareness, intonation, and speech production. TellTale is full of kinesthetic, creative, artistic, hands-on activities, based on the 4 stories of the book. You can spend more than a month on each story, or even two months! You can work on the stories in any order you like.

Remember to use a special storytelling seating arrangement (circle for example) and to 'signal' the beginning of your storytelling time.

Story 1: Your Adventure

The first story in TellTale has no words. It's a story that you, the teacher, will create with your learners. The only thing we can reveal about the story is that there's a parrot and the parrot's name is... Adventure.

How to tell the story (some ideas): Describe the room. Ask your students to color it, based on your description or stop and ask them, 'what color is the sofa?', 'what color is the carpet?'. Make sure you give them time to color the picture.

And then... something happens in the story! The parrot flies in the room! It's Adventure! (Always stop and ask children to repeat and recall). How is Adventure feeling? Is she happy? Is she a bit scared perhaps? (Show feelings with facial expressions and gestures, ask children to mime the feelings).

Tell the story lots of times and ask children what they remember. Stop in the middle of your sentences and ask them to complete them. Do the activities of the story in any order. You don't have to do them all- pick the ones you like better.

Story 2: The Adventure of Gi and Ni with the Shiny Big Eyes

The second story in TellTale is a real-life story! Start the story by introducing the two main characters, Gi and Ni to the children. Describe the picture with them, ask them to point at things you say from the picture (show me something yellow, show me something green, show me the boy, show me the girl, are the children happy? etc.)

When you narrate the story, you don't have to read it out loud from the book. You can narrate it in simpler words, just by looking at the pictures and pointing at each person, drawing, animal etc. Ask children, 'who is Uncle John?', 'where is the lobster?', 'show me the deer' etc. If you decide to read out the story, you might have to explain some words or action points in learners' mother tongue. When you start doing the activities with your students, go back to the story, tell the story again, help them remember what happened in the story. Tell the story at the beginning of each lesson and let them complete missing parts! Again, do the activities you like, in any order you like. Ask you students, which activities they prefer to do. (you can watch a storytelling video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wzkvllzwfPs>)

Story 3: Olaf and Bailey

The third story in TellTale is about 2 dogs! Again, start by asking students to describe the dogs. The story is written in rhyme, so you can read 4 lines, explain them, and then move on to the next 4 lines. You can take your time to finish the story and do the follow up activities. It's very easy for young children to remember rhymes so read the story every time from the beginning and stop in the middle of the sentence so the students can complete the line.

Story 4: The Adventures of Burberella

The fourth story in TellTale is the longest. And it's so much fun! It's in the form of a poem, so again, students can learn it gradually by heart (or some parts of it). It also has a dancing component! The activities 'interrupt' the story and our

suggestion is that you focus on one part of the poem each time, you do the activities with your learners and then you move on to the next part. However, every time you go back to the story, read it from the beginning.

At the end of Burberella's story, you can organize a dance performance with your students!