The Pearl: Anticipation Guide
Story Impressions

Purpose: This is a prereading strategy that should be used the day before students begin to read The Pearl. Creating a story impression will be beneficial for the following reasons: 1) it arouses curiosity and allows students to anticipate what the novel might be about, 2) students will be introduced to words associated with setting, characters, and events in the story, 3) fragments from the story, in the form of clue words, enable the students to form impressions of how the characters and events interact in the story, and 4) students will later be able to compare their story guesses to the author’s actual account.

Objectives: Students will be able to analyze the relationship of the word clues, formulate a prediction for the plot of the novel, and compose a story guess of their own. After reading the text, students will be able to compare and contrast their story guess to the author’s actual account.

Context: Doing this strategy before reading a page of the novel will introduce students to key words and characters and allow them to become interested in the plot.

Time: 5-10 min: Explain the strategy
5 min: Review the story chain
Remaining time: Students write their story guesses

Directions to Students: “Today we are going to make up what we think this novel could be about. (Display story chain.) Here are some clues about The Pearl, which we will begin reading tomorrow. You are to use these clues to write your own mini-version of the story. After we read it you will be able to compare and contrast what you wrote with the actual story. Let’s do an example of a story guess together. Here are some clues from the novel ___________ that we just finished reading (display a brief story chain of the last novel.) You can see how the events are linked together by these arrows. Let’s brainstorm some different ways these clues could link together to form a story…Now it’s your turn to make a story guess for The Pearl. For each of these clues, write one to three sentences that link them together in a logical story prediction.”

Assessment: Check for student understanding as you do the example together—can everyone come up with one or two ideas for how the clues could be linked together? Walk around as students write their story guesses; remind students that this is all about creativity!

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The Pearl
Story Chain:
Kino, Juana
≡
pearl diver
≡
poor, happy
≡
scorpion
≡
danger
≡
baby Coyotito
≡
stung, need help
≡
rich, haughty doctor
≡
no money
≡
pray, dive
≡
PEARL
≡
fame, fortune
≡
jealousy, greed
≡
danger, threats
≡
warnings
≡
hatred, rage
≡
murder
≡
escape
≡
manhunt
≡
r
≡
cornered
≡
death
≡
return
≡
sorrow
≡
PEARL
≡
sea

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