FireSmart[™] BC Education Program





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Lesson Four

In this lesson, students will practise making inferences

- before reading, using details from the cover of a book,
- during reading, using key words from a story to predict the main idea
- after reading, revisiting an initial decision and deciding if it is still the best statement to represent the main idea from the book.



Lesson Question:

What is the main idea from the story?

Lesson Challenge:

Choose the statement that best describes the main idea from the story.

Big Ideas

- Stories and other texts can be shared through pictures and words. (K, Grade 1 English Language Arts)
- Curiosity and wonder lead us to new discoveries about ourselves and the world around us. (K, Grade 1 English Language Arts)

Suggested Materials

- Any picture book relating to wildfires, such as the following:
 - The Fox and the Forest Fire (Danny Popovici)
 - o Firefighter Duckies (Frank W. Dormer)
 - o WildFire (Ashley Wolf)
 - o Little Smokey (Robert Neubecker)
- A collection of 12–16 words from the selected story. They should be words that are important to the story and/or are likely to be unfamiliar to the students.

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Start the Thinking



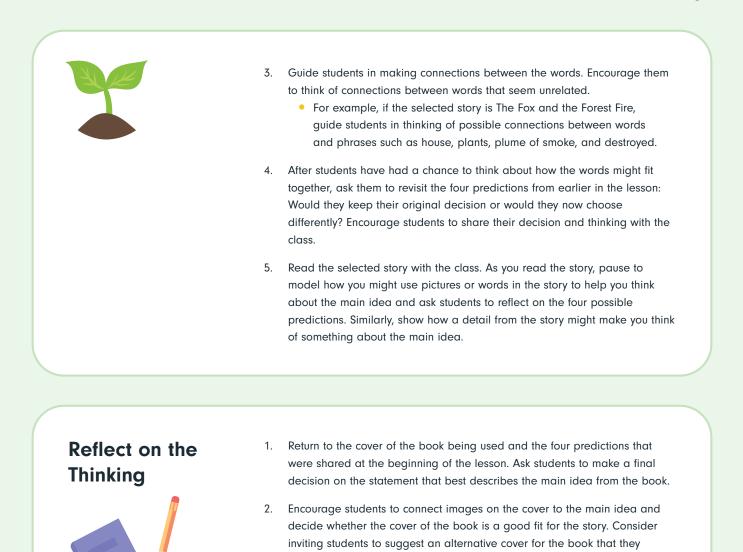
- 1. Before reading, show students the cover of the selected book. Explain that you would like them to predict the main idea from the story.
- Remind students that a prediction is not a guess—a thoughtful prediction uses clues and what we already know for a likely answer. Encourage students to use two criteria for thinking of thoughtful predictions.
 - A thoughtful prediction
 - considers all the clues and details
 - fits with what we know to be true
- Invite students to offer their thoughtful predictions about the main idea using the title and details from the cover, reminding them to use the criteria to guide their thinking.
- 4. Introduce the lesson question and challenge, and then offer four possible predictions for the main idea of the story. These predictions should range in their thoughtfulness.
 - For example, if the selected story is The Fox and the Forest Fire, four possible predictions for the main idea could include the following:
 - Wildfires are very scary for foxes.
 - o Hope and friendship are important for recovering from a wildfire.
 - During a wildfire, the colour of the sky is the same as the colour of a fox.
 - Foxes hide in caves during wildfires.
- 5. Encourage students to share their prediction with the class. Consider noting the predictions for use later in this lesson.

Grow the Thinking



- Share a collection of words (and phrases) from the story with students. These should be words that are important to the story and/or are likely to be unfamiliar to the students. Explain that all of the words come from the story they are going to read or listen to. Review each word and ask students to identify any words that are unfamiliar to them.
 - For example, if the selected story is The Fox and the Forest Fire, the selected words and phrases could include dams, destroyed, bugs and plants, warn, forest, nights, hike, mornings, house, friends, go home, strangely quiet, trip, safe, discover, plume of smoke.
- Encourage students to define some of the words or to use examples to demonstrate understanding. For words or phrases that are unfamiliar, such as plume of smoke, provide an image or a description that will help children understand them in context.

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believe would better fit with the main idea.

