

Using the library to learn English [Part 1]

Place/venue: Library

Materials: One storybook per student

Skill: Pre-reading strategy

The library is a wonderful place to learn a language because the student has a wide and varied exposure to a print rich environment. Just being exposed to English is not enough. The student needs to have interesting and engaging learning experiences that lead to developing a skill that can be used in new situations.

In this library activity, the student will develop his/her ability to predict content of a book in a systematic way. This is a particularly important skill for high school and university students. As the student is expected to read and conduct research in order to write a paper, the student develops his/her ability to select a book by reading just the title. This activity focuses on narrative type books rather than informative type.

The instructions that follow are written as the student will hear or read them. As a teacher, you should modify the instructions in a way that make them more comprehensible to your students.

Task one

Read and copy the title of the book. Draw a circle around the title you copied.

Task two

What does the title remind you off? Write down as many words as you can that come to your mind around the title.

Task three

Use the words and ideas you wrote to answer the questions below. Do not read the story!

Who do you think the people in the story are going to be?	Where and when do you think the story will take place?
What do you think the main events or problems are going to be?	

Task four

Read the blurb (the back cover of the book). How similar is your above organizer to the details in the blurb?

Tell a classmate.