

# Sample Read-Aloud Strategy

## Corduroy



**Say:** Today I'm going to read a story called Corduroy by Don Freeman. Let's look at the pictures and see if you can tell me what the story is going to be about.

**Do:** Encourage the children to respond as you turn the pages of the book from beginning to end. This activity is sometimes called a "picture walk." After the children have offered their ideas, say:

**Say:** This story is about a toy bear who is missing a button on his overalls. One day a little girl notices him sitting in the store window and she wants to buy him because she thinks he is just the bear for her. While I'm reading, think about why Lisa, the little girl, chose Corduroy over the other toys at the store?

**Do:** Ask questions that build additional background knowledge and set a purpose for listening. If you could be a toy on a shelf, what toy would you want to be? Do you have a toy that is extra special like Corduroy? What is it about your special toy that makes it special? Once the children are familiar with this questioning technique, you can ask them to think of their own questions.

**Say:** Now that I've told you a little bit about the story, let's read it.

**Do:** Show the children the pictures as you read. Stop occasionally for reactions, comments, and questions. To engage the children, you can ask the following discussion questions: "How do you suppose Corduroy lost the button on his overalls? Have you ever used an escalator? How do you think Corduroy felt as they were leaving the store?" If the children don't respond, you can model a response by saying, "Finding a button in a large department store might be hard to do."

**Say:** Now that we've read the story, let's talk about what happened first in the story. Second? Third?

**Do:** Let the children respond and ask them to retell the story using the pictures in the book to help them recall the story sequence. Finally focus on the second goal, making inferences and ask:

**Say:** If you were Lisa, would you have bought Corduroy? Do you think Corduroy will be happy living with Lisa? Why or why not? What lesson can we learn from this story?

Adapted from Mandel Morrow, Lesley & Gambrell, Linda B. (2004). Using Children's Literature in Preschool. Supporting Reading Comprehension: Responding to Books, 3, 37-47.

**[www.bookitprogram.com/redzone](http://www.bookitprogram.com/redzone)**

Visit the R.E.D. Zone for more reading-readiness, printables, read-aloud tips, resources and more!