

## *Reading and retell*

This is a multi-step activity. Commercially produced graded readers such as *Oxford Bookworms* or *Penguin ESL Readers* are ideal.

1. Students read a story at their reading level. Each student should read a different story. Or, the class should at least read 2-3 different stories.
2. Students complete the reading and retell (RR) template appropriate to their level of oral production (which is usually lower than their reading comprehension).
3. Students practice reading the templates in order to remember what the story was about.
4. Students select 1-3 pictures from the story to help retell the story.
5. Students find a partner who has read a different story.
6. Student A tells the story to Student B using pictures from the story and following the template. Student A should NOT read the template.
7. Student B listens to the story and then completes the checklist/feedback sheet.
8. Change roles.
9. This process repeats regularly (1-2 times a week, if possible) over several years until students complete all levels. Let students decide when they are ready to progress to another level.

## ***Template for a RETELL (LEVEL 1)***

(Select only 1-2 illustrations to help you retell the story)

This book/story is called \_\_\_\_\_. (*hold up the book and point to the title*)

The story is about (*who? What?*)

\_\_\_\_\_.

I liked the story \_\_\_\_\_ (*a little, a lot*) because

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please (*do not*) read this book.

## **CHECKLIST/Feedback for LEVEL 1 RETELL**

**Partner Activity: Listen to your partner's RETELL.**

**Complete the checklist for your partner.**

Did your partner state the title of the book?	Yes	No
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Did your partner show the title?	Yes	No
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Did your partner tell something about the story?	Yes	No
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Did your partner like the book?	Yes	No
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Did your partner show 1-2 illustrations?	Yes	No
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Did the illustrations help <u>you</u> to understand the story?	Yes	No
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Did your partner read their retell?	Yes	No
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Comments (Praise, hints, encouragement):

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## ***Template for a RETELL (LEVEL 2)***

(Select only three illustrations to help you retell the story)

This book/story is called \_\_\_\_\_. The story is about (how many?) \_\_\_\_\_ (characters/people).

(Name) \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_.

(Name) \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_.

The story takes place \_\_\_\_\_. (setting/where?)

In the beginning \_\_\_\_\_. (relationship)

First \_\_\_\_\_ (character) \_\_\_\_\_ (action).

Then \_\_\_\_\_ (character) \_\_\_\_\_ (action).

Finally, if you want to know what happened, please read the book!

*OR*

Finally \_\_\_\_\_ (character) \_\_\_\_\_ (action).

I liked this story because

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

I would (not) recommend that you read it because \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

## **CHECKLIST/Feedback for LEVEL 2 RETELL**

**Partner Activity: Listen to your partner's RETELL.  
Complete the checklist for your partner.**

- |   |     |    |
|---|-----|----|
| Did your partner state the title of the book?                 | Yes | No |
| Did your partner state the number of characters in the story? | Yes | No |
| Did your partner name the characters in the story? (who)      | Yes | No |
| Did your partner tell the setting of the story? (where)       | Yes | No |
| Did your partner tell the beginning of the story?             | Yes | No |
| Did your partner tell the ending of the story?                | Yes | No |
| Did your partner tell his/her feelings about the story?       | Yes | No |
| Did your partner recommend that you read the book?            | Yes | No |
| Did your partner show 1-3 illustrations?                      | Yes | No |
| Did the illustrations help you to understand the story?       | Yes | No |
| Did your partner read the retell?                             | Yes | No |

Comments (Praise, hints, encouragement):

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### ***More Advanced Template for a RETELL (LEVEL 3)***

*(Select only three illustrations to help you retell the story)*

***When you are comfortable with the previous model, try this one. List (write down) the NEW words from the story:***

\_\_\_\_\_

***Try to use the new words when preparing the template for your retell.***

This book is **entitled** \_\_\_\_\_. I \_\_\_\_\_ (*reaction: liked, disliked, enjoyed, connected with*) this book because

\_\_\_\_\_

**It is by** \_\_\_\_\_ (**author**).

The story is about \_\_\_\_\_ (*main idea*). The main

character(s) in the story are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ . . . .

\_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ (noun or adjective)

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\_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ (noun or adjective)

The story **takes place** \_\_\_\_\_. (setting/where/  
when?)

In the beginning \_\_\_\_\_. (relationship/

EVENT 1)

**Secondly** \_\_\_\_\_ (character) \_\_\_\_\_ (action). (EVENT 2)

**Then** \_\_\_\_\_ (character) \_\_\_\_\_ (action). (EVENT 3)

**Then** \_\_\_\_\_ (character) \_\_\_\_\_ (action). (EVENT 4)

**Next** \_\_\_\_\_ (character) \_\_\_\_\_ (action). (EVENT 5)

**Then** \_\_\_\_\_ (character) \_\_\_\_\_ (action). (EVENT 6)

Finally, if you want to know what happened, please read the book!

*OR*

Finally, \_\_\_\_\_ (character) \_\_\_\_\_ (action).

This story **made me feel** \_\_\_\_\_ because

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I would (not) recommend that you read it because \_\_\_\_\_.

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### **CHECKLIST/Feedback for LEVEL 3 RETELL**

**Partner Activity: Listen to your partner's RETELL.  
Complete the checklist for your partner.**

Did your partner state the title of the book?	Yes	No
Did your partner give his or her reaction to the book?	Yes	No
Did your partner state the author of the book?	Yes	No
Did your partner state the main idea of the story?	Yes	No
Did your partner identify the characters in the story?	Yes	No
Did your partner state the setting of the story? (when & where)	Yes	No
Did your partner tell how the story began?	Yes	No
Did your partner tell the events of the story in sequence?	Yes	No
Did your partner tell how the story ended?	Yes	No
Did your partner state how the story made him/her feel?	Yes	No
Did your partner recommend that you read the book?	Yes	No
Did your partner show no more than three illustrations?	Yes	No
Did the illustrations help you to understand the story?	Yes	No
Did your partner read his/her retell?	Yes	No

Comments (Praise, hints, encouragement):

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## ***More Advanced Model for a RETELL (LEVEL 4)***

(Select only three illustrations to help you retell the story)

When you are comfortable with the previous model, try this one. List (write down) the NEW words from the story \_\_\_\_\_ AND try to use as many of the new words from learned in previous retells as you can when preparing the template for your retell.

This book is entitled \_\_\_\_\_. I \_\_\_\_\_ (reaction) this book because it \_\_\_\_\_.

It is by \_\_\_\_\_ (author).

It is a \_\_\_\_\_ (genre).

It is written for \_\_\_\_\_ (age/interest group/audience).

The story is about \_\_\_\_\_ (main idea). The main character(s) in the story are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ . . . .

\_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ (noun or adjective).

\_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ (noun or adjective).

\_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ (noun or adjective).

\_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ (noun or adjective).

The story takes place \_\_\_\_\_. (setting/where/when? Use at least THREE adjectives)

In the beginning \_\_\_\_\_ (relationship/EVENT 1)

Secondly \_\_\_\_\_ (character) \_\_\_\_\_ (action). (EVENT 2)

Then \_\_\_\_\_ (character) \_\_\_\_\_ (action). (EVENT 3)

Next \_\_\_\_\_ (character) \_\_\_\_\_ (action). (EVENT 4)

Then \_\_\_\_\_ (character) \_\_\_\_\_ (action). (EVENT 5)

Then \_\_\_\_\_ (character) \_\_\_\_\_ (action). (EVENT 6)

Finally, if you want to know what happened, please read the book!

**OR**

Finally, \_\_\_\_\_ (character) \_\_\_\_\_ (action).

This story makes me realize that \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. (lesson).

I would (not) recommend that you read it because \_\_\_\_\_.

Which parts of the story happened as you predicted? Which parts surprised you?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

***Be prepared to answer any questions your partner might have!***

## CHECKLIST/Feedback for LEVEL 4 RETELL

**Partner Activity: Listen to your partner's RETELL and complete the checklist for your partner.**

Did your partner state the title of the book?	Yes	No
Did your partner give his or her reaction to the book?	Yes	No
Did your partner state the author of the book?	Yes	No
Did your partner state the genre of the book?	Yes	No
Did your partner state the age/interest group/audience?	Yes	No
Did your partner state the main idea of the story?	Yes	No
Did your partner identify the characters of the story?	Yes	No
Did your partner state the setting of the story using at least three adjectives?	Yes	No
Did your partner tell the events of the story?	Yes	No
Did your partner use the words beginning, then, next, and finally?	Yes	No
Did your partner state what the story made him or her realize?	Yes	No
Did your partner make a recommendation?	Yes	No
Did your partner show no more than three illustrations?	Yes	No
Did the illustrations help you to understand the story?	Yes	No
Did your partner share information about his or her predictions?	Yes	No
Did your partner use the three new words?	Yes	No
Did your partner answer any questions you asked?	Yes	No

Comments (Praise, hints, encouragement):

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## I Can or CAN-DO self assessment

Goal (objective)	I think I can do this independently	I think I can do this with help & guidance	I do not think that I can do this yet
1. I can name the characters in the book.			
2. I can give two actions for a character in the book.			
3. I can describe the main idea of the book.			
4. I can understand the main idea of my partner's book.			
5. I can identify at least two events from my partner's book.			
6. I can give my opinion about the book.			
7. I can give a compliment for my partner's retell.			
8. I can use at least adjectives describing the characters.			
9. I can put the events in order during my retell.			
10. I can use the words first, then, next, and finally when giving my retell.			

## ***More Advanced Model for a RETELL (LEVEL 5 )***

(Select only three illustrations to help you retell the story)

When you are comfortable with the previous model, try this one. List (write down) the NEW words from the story \_\_\_\_\_ AND try to use as many of the new words from learned in previous retells as you can when preparing the template for your retell.

This book is entitled \_\_\_\_\_. I \_\_\_\_\_(reaction) this book because it \_\_\_\_\_.

It is by \_\_\_\_\_(author).

It is a \_\_\_\_\_(genre) written in \_\_\_\_\_ (point of view)

It is written for \_\_\_\_\_ (age/interest group/audience).

The story is about \_\_\_\_\_ (main idea). The main character(s) in the story are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ . . . .

\_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_.

The story takes place \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (setting/where/when? Use at least THREE adjectives)

In the beginning \_\_\_\_\_ . (relationship/EVENT 1)

Secondly \_\_\_\_\_ (character) \_\_\_\_\_ (action). (EVENT 2)

Then \_\_\_\_\_ (character) \_\_\_\_\_ (action). (EVENT 3)

Next \_\_\_\_\_ (character) \_\_\_\_\_ (action). (EVENT 4)

Then \_\_\_\_\_ (character) \_\_\_\_\_ (action). (EVENT 5)

Then \_\_\_\_\_ (character) \_\_\_\_\_ (action). (EVENT 6)

Finally, if you want to know what happened, please read the book!

**OR**

Finally, \_\_\_\_\_ (character) \_\_\_\_\_ (action).

This story makes me realize that \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. (lesson).

I would (not) recommend that you read it because \_\_\_\_\_.

Which parts of the story happened as you predicted? Which parts happened by surprise?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

This story (or a character in the story) reminds me of (a story title, movie, comic book,  
video game, personal experience) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

***Be prepared to answer any questions your partner might have!***

**CHECKLIST/Feedback for LEVEL 5 RETELL**

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**Partner Activity: Listen to your partner's RETELL and complete the checklist for your partner.**

Did your partner state the title of the book?	Yes	No
Did your partner give his or her reaction to the book?	Yes	No
Did your partner state the author of the book?	Yes	No
Did your partner state the genre of the book?	Yes	No
Did your partner state the point of view used in the story?	Yes	No
Did your partner state the age/interest group/audience?	Yes	No
Did your partner state the main idea of the story?	Yes	No
Did your partner state the characters of the story?	Yes	No
Did your partner state the setting of the story using at least three adjectives?	Yes	No
Did your partner tell the events of the story?	Yes	No
Did your partner use the words beginning, then, next, and finally?	Yes	No
Did your partner state what the story made him or her realize (a new insight)?	Yes	No
Did your partner make a recommendation?	Yes	No
Did your partner share information about his or her predictions?	Yes	No
Did your partner relate this story to another story, personal experience, event or type of media?	Yes	No
Did your partner use the three new words?	Yes	No
Did your partner read his/her retell?	Yes	No
Did your partner answer any questions you asked?	Yes	No

Comments (Praise, hints, encouragement):

**When you are comfortable with the previous model, try this one!**

***More Advanced Model for a RETELL (LEVEL 6)***

Select THREE illustrations to help you retell the story.

Write down NEW words or expressions from the story.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Try to use these new words or expressions and words or expressions learned in previous retells when preparing the template for your retell.

This book/story is entitled \_\_\_\_\_. I \_\_\_\_\_ (reaction) this book/  
story because it \_\_\_\_\_.

It is written by \_\_\_\_\_ (author).

It is a \_\_\_\_\_ (genre) written for \_\_\_\_\_ (age group).

The story is written in the \_\_\_\_\_ (First Person, Second Person,  
Omniscient) point of view.

The story is about \_\_\_\_\_ (main idea). The main characters in the  
story are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, . . . .

\_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_.

...

The story takes place \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (setting with at least THREE adjectives)

The story begins with \_\_\_\_\_. (EVENT 1)

Then \_\_\_\_\_ (character) \_\_\_\_\_ (action).

Next \_\_\_\_\_ (character) \_\_\_\_\_ (action).

After that \_\_\_\_\_. (EVENT 2)

Then \_\_\_\_\_ (character) \_\_\_\_\_ (action).



Later \_\_\_\_\_ (EVENT 2)

Then \_\_\_\_\_ (character) \_\_\_\_\_ (action)

Next \_\_\_\_\_ (character) \_\_\_\_\_ (action)

Lastly \_\_\_\_\_ (EVENT 3)

This story makes me think of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I would (not) recommend that you read it because \_\_\_\_\_.

Did the story end the way you thought it would?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What parts surprised you?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

This story reminds me of (a story title, movie, comic book, video game, personal

experience) \_\_\_\_\_

because \_\_\_\_\_

Which part of the story would you change if you could? How would you change it?

\_\_\_\_\_

*Be prepared to answer any questions your partner might have!*

## **CHECKLIST/Feedback for LEVEL 6 RETELL**

**Partner Activity: Listen to your partner's RETELL.  
Complete the checklist for your partner.**

Did your partner state the title, their reaction to the story and the author?      Yes      No

Did your partner identify the genre of the story and  
No  
age group for which the story was written?      Yes

Did your partner state in which point of view the story was written?      Yes      No

Did your partner state the main idea of the story?      Yes      No

Did your partner identify and describe the main characters in the story?      Yes      No

Did your partner state the setting of the story with at least three adjectives?      Yes      No

Did your partner tell how the story began?      Yes      No

Did your partner identify and describe at least three events in the story?      Yes      No

Did your partner share what the story makes he/she think of?      Yes      No

Did your partner recommend that you do or do not read the book?      Yes      No

Did your partner share whether he or she was able to predict the ending?      Yes      No

Did your partner share their surprise?      Yes      No

Did your partner express which part he or she would change and how?      Yes      No

Did your partner share what the story reminds he/she of?      Yes      No

Did your partner show three illustrations?      Yes      No

Did the illustrations help you to understand the story?      Yes      No

Did your partner read his/her retell?      Yes      No

Comments (Praise, hints, encouragement):

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## CHECKLIST for LISTENING LEVEL

**Partner Activity: Retell your story. Complete the checklist for your partner (and listener) after retelling your story.**

Did your listener offer praise after you retold your story?	Yes	No
Did your listener show interest while you were retelling your story?	Yes	No
Did your listener thank you for retelling your story?	Yes	No
Did your listener offer encouragement while you were retelling your story?	Yes	No
Did your listener ask you questions about your retell after you completed it?	Yes	No

