

In introducing stories to children, you might:

- Draw on the children's experience and knowledge.
- Leave room for the children to bring their experiences to bear on the story.
- Explain important ideas and concepts.
- Discuss the plot or theme of the whole story.
- Say (and sometimes have children repeat) language patterns that are unfamiliar and are critical to the story.
- Talk about the meaning of the whole story.
- Talk about the illustrations and help children discover information in them.
- Discuss the characters in the story.
- Draw children's attention to the structure of the text and help them understand "how the book works."
- Occasionally address letter-sound relationships or clusters in the pronunciation of unfamiliar words (proper names, for example).
- Use some of the new and challenging vocabulary found in the story.
- Draw children's attention to specific words and punctuation.
- Explore any aspects of text layout that affect the meaning of the story or would be tricky for children to follow.
- "Leave the children with one or two clear questions that will drive them into the text and serve as a continuing impulse to seek meaning when they read" (Holdaway 1979, p. 143)

Guided Reading, Fountas and Pinnell, pages 137-138