The Complicated Life of Baby Bear

Jamie Lipp,
Elementary Literacy Curriculum Specialist,
Westerville, Ohio

Ryan, a former Reading Recovery student, had a clever interpretation of the Baby Bear series by Beverley Randell. Ryan and I first read Baby Bear Goes Fishing, and a few days later, Baby Bear Climbs A Tree. Ryan immediately closed the book and proclaimed, “Baby Bear can’t make up his mind! First he’s not too little, then he’s not too big. Which is it?”

During Baby Bear’s Hiding Place, Ryan stopped after reading that Father Bear thought Baby Bear was lost in the woods. “He’s been kidnapped,” he said. When asked to clarify, Ryan very assertively declared, “If he was lost he would still have his basket. You never leave your food supply in the woods. I’m a cub scout- that’s survival 101. That bear’s been kidnapped!” Oh, how I miss my days with Ryan!

Comma Power

Becky Theis,
Reading Recovery Teacher,
Gillette, Wyoming

I have a poster on my door that is meant to amuse and entertain the sixth graders who line up in my hallway. It has a picture of a grandmother with the words, “Punctuation saves lives!” It also has the words, “Let’s eat Grandma,” and “Let’s eat, Grandma!” One of my more-curious students wanted me to explain how a comma could save lives. We had a good laugh over the poster and continued on with our lessons. At the end of his series of lessons, I administered the C.A.P. When I got to the comma question, I asked him what it was for. His reply was epic! With a straight face, he said, “I don’t know, but it saves lives!”

Literally Speaking

Connie Clark,
Title IA Interventionist,
Skowhegan, Maine

I was working on the writing portion of a lesson with Benjamin. He had just practiced writing the word how three times on his practice page and I asked if he thought he could now write it “without looking,” meaning without using a model of the word. I forgot how literal first graders could be! He looked at me oddly and said, “Okay,” then covered his eyes with his left hand while he tried to write how again on his practice page.

Sounds Like...

Julie McConnell,
Reading Recovery Teacher,
Abingdon, Virginia

One of my students was reading A Picnic Lunch. When we got to the part where the birds are flying down to eat the bread and saying “Cheep, cheep! Cheep, cheep!” he looked at me and asked, “Why are they saying ‘cheap’? They’re getting this stuff for free!

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