Useful tips on sharing the story with preschool children

Fly, everyone, fly! is suitable for reading aloud to children 6 years and older, but that doesn’t mean that younger children can’t enjoy the story too! Here are some ideas on how to share the story with children aged 3 to 6 years.

**Before**

- A few days before sharing the story with children, read it a few times. Get to know the story well enough so that you can retell it in your own way.
- Think about how to bring the story alive.
  - Introduce the story in a way that sparks children’s curiosity. For example: Write a letter that says: ‘Who wants to join me on a bus trip to visit Gogo? Love, Afrika.’ Leave the letter somewhere where the children will find it and when they do, read it to them. Use chairs to make the ‘seats’ of the bus.
  - Find parts of the story where the children can join in. For example: doing the actions to Josh’s song.
  - What facial expressions and gestures can you use as you tell the story? For example: smiling and waving like Gogo at the bus stop.
  - Collect and/or make some of the objects mentioned in the story to show as you tell the story. For example: a backpack with paper in it, a paper aeroplane. Or, download and print the story’s pictures from www.nalibali.org
- Practise telling the story.

**During**

- Introduce then tell the story to the children.

**After**

- Ask open-ended questions to encourage the children to think and talk about ideas linked to the story. For example: Would you rather be a plane or a bus? Why?
- Together, pretend to be something that flies. Say what you are.
- Invite the children to:
  - make bus tickets or draw pictures about the story with crayons, kokis, paper and scissors.
  - play on the bus you made. (They can also dress up for the journey!)
  - make scenes from the story using playdough or clay.
  - make planes or buses with recycled materials (like cardboard boxes, paper towel rolls, bottle tops), glue, scissors and paint.
- Most importantly, have fun!

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