Grade : 4th
Strategy : Predicting
Technique : Mind Mapping
Text Type : Fiction

Androcles & the Lion

Aims of the lesson:

- To help students develop their ability to make predictions while reading.
- To engage students with the narrative through questioning and connections to their own experiences.
- To foster a deeper understanding of character development and plot progression.

Text for the lesson:

This story takes place in Rome, where a Greek slave named Androcles escaped from his master and fled into the forest. There he wandered for a long time until he was weary and well-nigh spent with hunger and despair. Just then he heard a lion near him moaning and groaning and at times roaring terribly. Tired as he was, Androcles rose up and rushed away, as he thought, from the lion; but as he made his way through the bushes he stumbled over the root of a tree and fell down lamed.

When he tried to get up, there he saw the lion coming towards him, limping on three feet and holding his forepaw in front of him. Androcles was in despair; he had no strength to rise and run away, and there was the lion coming upon him.

But when the great beast came up to him instead of attacking him it kept on moaning and looking at him, he saw that the lion was holding out his right paw, it was covered with blood and much swollen. Looking more closely at it, Androcles saw a great big thorn pressed into the paw, which was the cause of all the lion's trouble. Plucking up courage he seized hold of the thorn and drew it out of the lion's paw, who roared with pain when the thorn came out, but soon after found such relief from it that he fawned upon Androcles and showed, in every way that he knew, to whom he owed the relief. Instead of eating him up, he brought him a young deer that he had slain, and Androcles managed to make a meal from it.

For some time, the lion continued to bring the game he had killed to Androcles, who became quite fond of the huge beast. But one day a number of soldiers came marching through the forest and found Androcles. As he could not explain what he was doing, they took him prisoner and brought him back to the town from which he had fled.

So Androcles was condemned to be thrown to the lions, and on the appointed day he was led forth into the Arena and left there alone with only a spear to protect him from the lion. The Emperor was in the royal box that day and gave the signal for the lion to come out and attack Androcles. But when it came out of its cage and got near Androcles, what do you think it did? Instead of jumping upon him, it fawned upon him and stroked him with its

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paw and made no attempt to do him any harm. It was of course the lion which Androcles had met in the forest.

Process Phase 1: Planning (Teachers' perspective)
During this stage, the teacher prepares:

- The text "Androcles & the Lion" for reading.
- Prediction activities and corresponding questions.
- Materials for student journaling and group discussions.

Cognitive Stage 1 (Students' perspective)
Step 1: Initial Predictions
Activity:

- Present the title "Androcles & the Lion."
- Ask students to predict what the story might be about based on the title and any keywords provided. Have them write their predictions in their journals or discuss with a partner.

Cognitive Stage 2 (Students' perspective)
Step 2: Vocabulary Exploration
Activity:

- Provide the vocabulary words: slave, fled, weary, hunger, despair, moaning, groaning, roaring, swollen.
- Ask students to discuss the meanings of these words and how they may relate to the context of the story.

Process Phase 2: Engaging with the Text
Step 3: Making Predictions Based on the Text
Activity:

- Read the text up to a significant stopping point (after the introduction of Androcles).
- Pause before discussing the emotional state of Reddy and ask students to predict what will happen next based on the context provided. Options to predict could include:
    - A. Reddy runs across the bridge and up to the top of the little hill.
    - B. Reddy decides it would be safer to stay with Granny.
    - C. Androcles is chased away by the lion.

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Cognitive Stage 3 (Students' perspective)
Step 4: Continuing Predictions
Activity:

- As the story progresses and Androcles encounters challenges, pause after he gets taken back to town and ask students to make predictions about what will happen next.
- Provide options such as:
    - A. Androcles's master is happy to see him again.
    - B. Androcles is punished severely.
    - C. Androcles is happy to return home.

Process Phase 3: Exploring Alternate Endings
Step 5: Alternate Endings
Activity:

- As the story moves towards its conclusion, stop before revealing the ending.
- Ask students to predict how the story will end, giving options similar to:
    - A. Androcles is condemned to be thrown to the lions.
    - B. The lion runs toward Androcles but does not harm him.
    - C. Androcles gets punished and the lion attacks.

Ways of Communication:

- **Interpretive** - Students interpret character actions, motivations, and plot developments based on textual evidence.
- **Interpersonal** - Students engage in discussions, sharing reflections, and collaborating with peers throughout the lesson.
- **Presentational** - Students present their predictions, reflections, and alternate endings in a supportive environment, enhancing their communication skills.

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