

Storytelling, songs, role play and drama: Upper Primary English

English (with Hindi)

Commentary:

In this upper primary English class, a teacher has gathered her students together to tell a story. The story is a well-known Indian traditional tale about a crow and a fox.

The students know the story in Hindi, but are less familiar with it in English. The teacher begins by asking her students some introductory questions.

Teacher: Do you like a story?

Students: Yes, ma'am.

Teacher: Bird's name बताइए बेटा?

Students: Crow, parrot, eagle...

Teacher: हिन्दी में भी बताइए, English में, जो आती है बताइए। जिसको आपने देखा है, आसपास। बताइए।

Students: Parrot, कोयल...

Teacher: हाँ, very nice!

Students: कोयल...

Teacher: अच्छा! कुछ wild animal's name पता है आपको? Wild animals जानते हैं? जंगली जानवर।

Student 1: Tiger.

Teacher: Very good!

Student 1: Lion.

Teacher: Very nice!

Today I am going to tell you a story about a bird!

Bird?

Students: Yes, ma'am.

Teacher: And elephant!

Students: No, ma'am!

Teacher: I am going to tell you a story about, a bird and a...? And a...?

Students: Fox!

Teacher: Fox!

Commentary:

The teacher is not using a book. She has memorised the story and is using a picture to reinforce the meaning of the English vocabulary.

Storytelling allows her to be in direct communication with her class. Notice how she makes eye contact with her students, uses jokes and makes the session enjoyable for everyone.

Teacher: A fox saw a bird eating some bread. Bread means?

Students: रोटी।

Teacher: हाँ, देख रही थी कि - bird यानि कौए - के पास रोटी है।

The fox said, "I like bread! Please, give me your bread!"

Commentary:

The teacher engages her students by using gestures and facial expressions.

Teacher: "I am really hungry! Really hungry!"

कौन कह रहा है?

Students: Fox.

Teacher: She is clever, न?

Students: Yes, ma'am.

Teacher: कह रही है...

Bird said, "No, I will not give you my bread! I will not give you my bread!"

The fox said, "Please, give me your bread! I am really hungry!"

तो bird ने कहा, "No, I will not give you my bread! I will not give you my bread!"

उसने फिर सोचा, "अच्छा! Can you fly?"

तो bird ने कहा, "Look! I can fly! I can fly! But, I will not give my bread! I will not give you my bread!"

Fox said, "Can you sing?"

Can you sing?

Students: Yes, ma'am.

Teacher: Can you sing?

Students: Yes, ma'am.

Teacher: 'Sing' means? गाना गाना।

Commentary:

Observe how the teacher keeps the students involved by asking them questions.

Teacher: फिर उसने सोचा, "OK, I can sing. Listen to my song! Listen to my song!"

फिर crow क्या करेगा? क्या करेगा crow?

Student 2: Ma'am, जब लोमड़ी नाचेगी, इधर-उधर मटकेगी, तब कौए को अच्छा लगेगा। वो हँसेगा, तो bread गिर जाएगी!

Teacher: अरे, वाह भई! Very good! है न? हाँ...

वो नाचेगी न? तो उसको बड़ा अच्छा लगेगा उसका dance! किसका dance?

Students: लोमड़ी का... Crow का।

Teacher: तो फिर वो भी नाचने लगेगा? Bird भी? ऐसे, ऐसे? ऐसे, ऐसे?

फिर कैसे? वो तो मुँह में दबाए रहेगा?

Students: Ma'am, नाचेगा।

Commentary:

Storytelling is a good way for both students and teachers to practise English.

You can prepare simple versions of stories in English for your class.

What story would you choose and how would you tell it using pictures and gestures?

What questions would you ask to help maintain your students' engagement?