

Learning possibilities

Text: Bland, N 2009, *When Henry caught imaginitis*, Scholastic Press, Lindfield, NSW.

Engage

Step 1. Gather your child/children for a story using the song, 'If you want to hear a story'.

Step 2. Read or watch the story and encourage your child/children to join in (see link in the Resources box).

Step 3. Here are some questions to ask your child/children about the story.

1. What did you see on the cover of the book? (boy sailing over the sea in a bathtub)
2. When Henry had a silly thought at suppertime, what did he wrestle with under the table? (a dragon or maybe a dinosaur)
3. How did Henry try to solve the problem of having silly thoughts? (by reading the big book of sensible things)
4. What advice does the big book give him? (that Henry has caught a case of imaginitis)

Respond

Invite children to share their understandings of the meanings of the rare words in the story.

Rare words	Synonym
confused	muddled, mixed up
wrestled	fought, tussled
imaginitis	lots of silly thoughts

Extend

- Use the story as a springboard for discussions about sensible ideas and not-so-sensible ideas. Would it be a sensible idea to walk backwards everywhere or to walk with our hands and not our feet? Such discussions provide a space for both humour and wildly imaginative suggestions and discussion about safety. Invite your child/children to paint or draw their suggestions and create a book of ideas.
- Play "when I had imaginitis". Lie on the ground and look at clouds in the sky (watch out for the sun) what shapes do you see? Imaginitis makes me think that cloud looks like a rat etc.

RESOURCES

Song

'If you want to hear a story'
(Tune: 'If you're happy and you know it')
If you want to hear a story, come sit down,
If you want to hear a story, come sit down.
Let's share a great big smile, as we read and talk a while,
It's time to hear a story, come sit down.

Video

Prehistoric Animal Brigade (YouTube, Saul)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rllfqc_l1Lw

When Henry Caught Imaginitis – by Nick Bland (YouTube, Sam Rothe)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSklbnvIGww>