

Five Foolish Friends

GOALS

Comprehension

Discuss strategies for reading a play: What is a narrator? Which parts do the characters read? Predict what the play might be about.

Vocabulary

Focus High-frequency Words: back, five, four, give, must, one, two, walk

Focus Content Words: bridge, count, fishing, friend, home, idea, lost, someone, water, yell

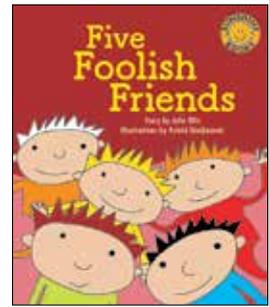
Phonics

Letters and Sounds: Recognise and produce words that begin with the same sound: /st/

Words to Blend and Segment: stand, stash, stick, still, sting

Fluency

Choral reading with students pointing to the words as they are read.



This play shows how important it is to be able to count properly.

Before Reading

- Ask: What is a narrator? Which parts do the characters read? Listen to the title and the names of the author and illustrator. What do you notice about the title? (alliteration) Why would the author use this technique in the title? (Makes the text more interesting, imaginative and real.) Have they read other stories by Julie Ellis? What can they remember about them?
- Students discuss what they see on the cover. Ask: How many characters are there? Could they be the five foolish friends? What does *foolish* mean? How do they look? (happy? friendly?) What could they be doing?
- Help students to use the title and cover page illustration to make predictions about the play.
- Look at the title page illustration. Ask: What is the same or different in this picture compared to the cover? Where are the five friends now? What do you think might happen in the story?
- Talk/walk through the pictures. Discuss what is happening with the five friends on each page. Bring words like *bridge, count, fishing, friend, home, idea, lost, someone, water, yell* into the conversation. On page 15, have students predict the ending.

Reading the Text

- On the title page, read the title together and the names of the characters including the narrator. Ask: What are the characters doing? What clues in the picture tell you what might happen in the play? (fishing rods, hats, a bag)
- On pages 2–3, look at the picture. Ask: What are the five friends doing? Find the word *plan* in the narrator's lines to confirm. What idea did they have? (fishing) Find the words *idea* and *fishing*. Where and when do they plan to meet? Read the parts together.
- On pages 4–5, ask: Where are the five friends now? (fishing on the red bridge) Look for the word *fishing* in the text to confirm this. Read the narrator's part to check that *fishing* makes sense. How are the five friends feeling? (happy with all their fish) Read what Friend 4 says. What does *missing* mean? Do you think one of the friends is missing?
- Follow this pattern for each page up to page 14, using the illustration, text and contextual cues to read the words together. Change voices for the different characters.
- Review the predictions made earlier, then turn the page to reveal the ending.

After Reading

Check the accuracy of students' predictions. Invite them to discuss the play. Prompt if needed.

- Students re-tell the text using the pictures on each page as a guide. What did the five friends and Alex do on each page?
- Reread the play together, then divide the class into seven characters including the narrator to read the parts together. If possible add actions. Did students like the ending? Why? Why is *Foolish* in the title? What made the friends seem foolish?
- Discuss the back cover. Re-tell the play using those pictures.

Phonics

- Write the words *stand, stash, stick, still, sting* on the board to practise blending and segmenting the sounds together as a group, e.g. /st/ /a/ /nd/. Illustrate by touching the alphabet letters for each word as the sounds are made for the word.
- Students think of more words starting with st to add to the list. Play a guessing game. e.g. I am thinking of something that is the opposite of go. (stop)

Word Study

- Talk about the words *back, five, four, give, must, one, two, walk* on the inside front cover of the book. Read them together. Ask students to find the words in the text.
- Photocopy and print multiple sets of these flash cards and use them to play a spelling game in pairs. Discuss the meaning or use of each word, e.g. *back* means "not lost" on page 14.
- Find the word *let's* on page 2. Discuss the contraction, what the apostrophe is for, what letter is missing and the expanded form (let us). Students find more examples of contractions in the book (*let's, I'll, isn't, don't, that's*) and expand them.
- Discuss words that end in -ing. Record these on a chart, e.g. walk/walking; point/pointing; miss/missing. Add other verbs to the chart. (hug, fish, yell, shake) Remind students about the rule when the verb ends in e, drop the e before adding -ing.
- On a piece of paper, have students draw a picture from the story. They find the words in the story and write them and then read their sentence to a partner.

Fluency

- Choral reading with students pointing to the words as they are read. Read the play as a readers' theatre, taking character parts in groups of six or seven.

Writing

- Students summarise the events on a story map showing the setting (where), characters (who), actions (what) and reasons (why). They illustrate and share with a partner.
- Students make a problem/events/solution three-column chart about the play. They illustrate and share with the class. Use the chart to re-tell the play as a story.