Mr Stofflees and the Painted Tiger

Author: Robin Mellor
Range: Fantasy/Animal story
Theme: Extraordinary happenings
Teaching Notes authors: Gill Howell and Vicki Yates

Synopsis
The children think nothing ever happens where they live. Then strange Mr Stofflees paints a tiger on the wall which comes to life, and strange events follow.

Group or guided reading

Introducing the book

- Look together at the cover. Read the title and ask the children to find the word ‘Stofflees’.
- Ask them to find Mr Stofflees in the picture and to suggest what sort of character he is.
- Read the blurb on the back cover. Ask the children to predict what might happen in the story.
- Read the author’s name and ask the children if they have read other books by this author.

Strategy check

- Ask the children to tell you which strategies they can use to work out new words.
- Find ‘piled’ on page 4. Ask the children to explain why this isn’t read as ‘pilled’.
- Ask the children to find ‘high’ on page 4 and ‘sign’ on page 6. Ask them what these two words have in common (silent ‘g’). Ask them to look out for other words that have a silent ‘g’ in the story.

Independent reading

Focus: Explain to the children that you want them to think about the following question while they are reading independently: What did Mr Stofflees do to paint the tiger? Did it look like an ordinary painting of a tiger?

- Observe the strategies the children use when they meet new vocabulary, and prompt them as needed.
- At the end of a chapter encourage the children to recount the main points in the chapter.
- Praise the children for reading with expression.

Returning and responding to the text

- When the children have read the whole story, ask them to say how Mr Stofflees painted the tiger.
- What was unusual about the comment everyone made when they saw it? Ask them to find the words in the text.
- Ask the children what they might have said when they saw the tiger.
- Recall the colours used to paint the tiger. Ask: Does the author describe how colourful the tiger is? How do we know it is colourful? Ask the children to scan the text to find the colour words in the text.
Do the children think the story is exciting or humorous? What did they like about the story?
Did they like the character of Mr Stofflees?

Speaking and listening activities
- Ask the children to work in groups of three or four and each take the role of a character from the story, with one child being the tiger.
- Ask them to choose an event from the story and discuss how to act it out.
- Ask some of the groups to perform their role plays for the class.
- Praise children for putting themselves in the role of the characters.

Further reading activities
- Ask the children to read page 20 and imagine they are going to write a letter to a newspaper about the tiger. Discuss how to begin and end their letters and how they need to describe the tiger so that the newspaper gets a true mental picture of it.
- Ask the children to write a letter, swap it with a partner’s, and read each other’s letters.
- Ask them to comment on the mental picture the description gives.
- In pairs, ask the children to read only the dialogue from the story using an expressive tone.
- Then ask them to look through the text and find the words used to describe the dialogue.
- Has this changed their minds about how they should read the dialogue?

Suggestions for using ICT
- Prepare the text on page 13 as a text file, and scramble the sentences.
- Ask the children to drag and drop the sentences so the paragraph makes sense. Ask them to read each other’s paragraphs.

Writing activities
- Discuss the final animal that Mr Stofflees paints.
- Ask the children to imagine that the elephant goes for a walk. Discuss what it might do and what people might say when they see it.
- Using one of the events from the story as a model, draw up a plan for a new event featuring the elephant.
- Ask the children to write a new event using the plan as a template.
Mr Stofflees and the Painted Tiger tells the story of what happens when Mr Stofflees moves into Rivermead flats. He paints a tiger on the wall and things are never quite the same again.

TreeTops Fiction contains a wide range of quality stories enabling children to explore and develop their own reading tastes and interests. It contains stories from a variety of genres including humour, sci-fi, adventure, mystery and historical fiction. Mr Stofflees and the Painted Tiger tells the story of what happens when Mr Stofflees moves into Rivermead flats. He paints a tiger on the wall and things are never quite the same again.

TreeTops Fiction contains engaging novels from top authors and illustrators with the variety children need to develop a love of reading!