



Reading Fictional Stories and Answering Questions About Them

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When kids get to high school, they often wonder why they read classic literature like fictional plays and stories by the likes of Shakespeare or Orwell, especially since they will never use knowledge of them in their future professional lives. Likewise, parents of elementary-aged children may wonder why the younger crowd typically reads fairy tales and nursery rhymes. What relevance do these stories have to a child's education?

To sum it up, beyond teaching kids to read, fictional narratives are key to developing critical thinking skills, as they play a crucial role in teaching them to interpret, infer, and analyze. In fact, children should be exposed to a wide variety of texts, which include fiction as well as non-fiction and informational passages.

Not only should learners have access to texts, but to develop skills like fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, and critical thinking skills, kids must also work closely with the texts they're studying. To engage learners' minds, it's important to ask them targeted questions to help them think but knowing the right questions to ask and when can be tricky for parents who aren't trained as teachers. That's exactly why we're here!

Kids Academy has expertly curated a [collection of worksheets](#) and videos with the help of educators designed to grow your child's reading skills to its fullest potential.

Fairy Tales and Fables: Required Reading for Kids

Fairy tales and fables are important to young readers because they teach kids to read with a purpose: to learn and think about the lesson each story presents. This helps children to think more deeply about what they're reading while applying the lesson to their own everyday lives.

The Lion and the Mouse

by Aesop



Read the story and pick out the key details by answering the questions below.

Once a Lion was awakened by a little Mouse playing on him.

The Lion caught the Mouse and wanted to swallow him. "Please, spare me!" begged the Mouse. "Who knows, I might be able to repay your kindness one day!" The Lion was amused to think that a little Mouse could ever help him. But he let the Mouse off.

Some days later, the Lion was caught in a net spread by a hunter. The Mouse heard the Lion's roaring. He came and gnawed the ropes. The Lion was free.

"Now you see that even a little Mouse can help a Lion," said the Mouse.

Moral: Small acts of kindness are never wasted.

What did the Mouse do to help the Lion? Circle the correct picture.



For example, this [worksheet](#) about "The Lion and the Mouse" includes a moral at the end of the story that is intended to teach a simple lesson that kids can understand. To help support this theme, students are tasked with recalling a key event of the story that directly leads to that lesson. Not only do children practice basic reading comprehension skills, but they do so in a way that connects the key events to the overall moral of the story.

As kids work through our collection of fables and fairy tales, they also learn to look more closely at storytelling elements such as characterization and setting and learn how that helps to develop a plot and eventually, the theme.



Rapunzel

QUESTIONS

Check the picture that answers each question about the fairy tale Rapunzel.

1. What was special about Rapunzel?


 She was very tall.


 She rode on elephants.


 She was beautiful with very long hair.

2. Why did Rapunzel get locked in the tower?

Her father stole rapunzel from the sorceress's garden.


She stole apples from a witch.


She lost her key.


3. Who tried to save Rapunzel?

her mom and dad


the prince


a unicorn

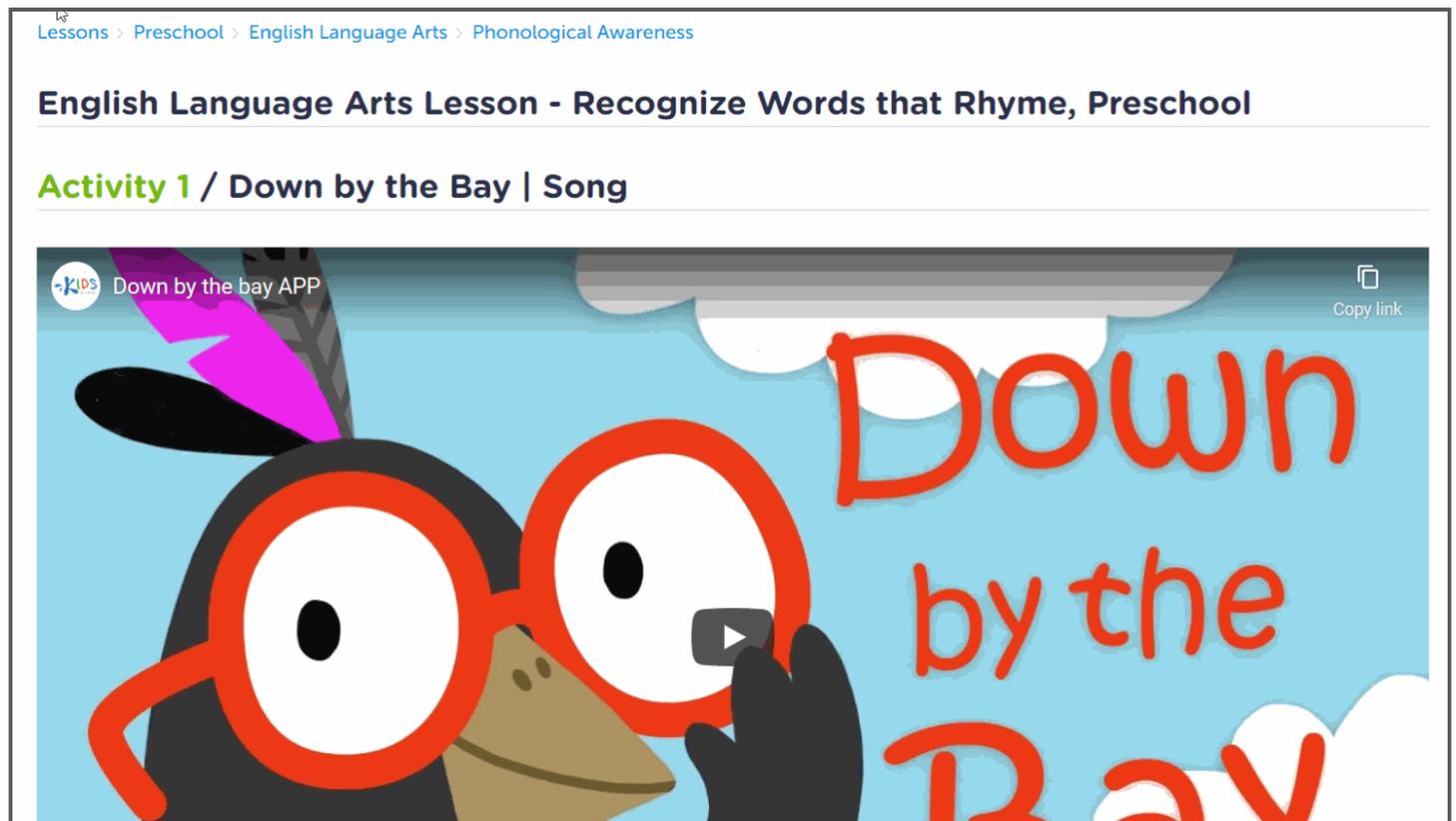

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In this [worksheet](#) about “Rapunzel”, children must recall facts from the story and think more deeply about Rapunzel’s characteristics and the conflict. While these questions may seem like simple and comprehension-based, they are designed to lead children to

recall key details about the text, while taking a closer look at story elements. This poises them for growth as it readies children to think beyond the facts to make inferences.

Educational Extras: Lessons and Videos

Do you love [free worksheets](#), but aren't sure when and how to use them? Back in August, we posted [this article](#) about our updated Lessons section on the Kids Academy website. All our materials are now organized into lessons that bundle resources together to make it easier for parents to use.

A screenshot of a lesson page on the Kids Academy website. The page has a white background with a blue header. The breadcrumb trail reads 'Lessons > Preschool > English Language Arts > Phonological Awareness'. The main title is 'English Language Arts Lesson - Recognize Words that Rhyme, Preschool'. Below that is the activity title 'Activity 1 / Down by the Bay | Song'. The main content area features a video player with a cartoon penguin character wearing large red-rimmed glasses. The penguin is holding a play button icon. To the right of the penguin, the words 'Down by the Bay' are written in large, red, rounded letters. In the top left corner of the video player, there is a 'Down by the bay APP' logo. In the top right corner, there is a 'Copy link' icon.

For instance, if you navigate to this lesson on [preschool rhyming](#), you will find numbered activities for a step-by-step lesson all centered around recognizing rhyming words using a song and a series of worksheets. Each lesson may contain a variety of activities, such as worksheets, [kids videos](#), or songs, and are designed to progress your child's learning by building from prior knowledge and learned material. For example, [this lesson](#) will help kids review popular nursery rhymes they have already learned in a creative way: by coloring! Parents can use these ready-made lessons to skip the hard work of putting together a learning plan and get children straight to learning.

In addition to [our lessons](#) and worksheets, we also offer educational videos on our [YouTube Channel](#). Here you will find a variety of educational videos, including fairy tales, like the one mentioned above. When it comes to worksheets like the Rapunzel worksheet, children must already be familiar with the story. This means that they may have read it before, or they can watch the [corresponding video](#), which will allow learners to engage with the text on the screen. If you're worried about your child watching a video

instead of reading, don't worry! Our videos feature storybooks that encourage kids to read along as the audio is playing.



If you navigate to our channel, you'll notice that there are many videos posted, and they address topics across the curriculum intended for students in preschool through the third grade. To make getting around a little easier, the videos are organized into playlists. For instance, the Rapunzel video linked above will lead you to the entire playlist of all seven fairy tales we have available.

If you're looking to enrich your child's learning with fictional stories and activities that will get them thinking through answering meaningful questions, we're confident that Kids Academy has materials perfect for your little learner. Be sure to check out all our [kids lessons](#) and worksheets at www.kidsacademy.mobi, and find us on the AppStore, Google Play, and YouTube for even more resources!

