Lesson Planning Notes:


This book is a perfect read-aloud for young children. The book focuses on an adventure for Baby Bear named Alfie who is awaiting the birth of a sibling. He is so excited about the coming event!

The narrative structure is a Complete Episode from Alfie’s perspective. There is another episode within the book to be inferred. The second episode involves Mama and Papa bear’s perspective.

Episode #1: This episode is about Alfie’s quest to find/rescue his new baby brother or sister.

Episode #2: This episode is inferred because at the end of the story, the father bear comes to rescue Alfie. We can discuss this idea with the children although the only context presented in the book is the act of the rescue itself.

Quotable Thoughts:

Definition of Literacy:
Literacy is an individual’s ability to read, write and speak in English and compute and solve problems at levels of proficiency necessary to function on the job and in society, to achieve one’s goals and to develop one’s knowledge and potential.

A complete understanding of literacy requires an appreciation of literate uses of spoken as well as written language and the relationship between them.

The Literacy Definition was taken from the following:
Roles and Responsibilities of Speech-Language Pathologists with Respect to Reading and Writing in Children and Adolescents.

American Speech/Language and Hearing Association (ASHA)

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NARRATIVE STAGE FOCUS
This book's text is mapped at narrative stages 1-5 to allow you flexibility in planning for your students.

STAGE 5

COMPLETE EPISODE

Braidy Analysis Form

Are you there, Baby Bear?

MAIN CHARACTER: Who is your story about?
Alfie, a little bear cub

SETTING: Where does your story take place?
The setting is an integral setting. A cave in the forest plays an integral part in the plot.
The forest is near tall mountains. A variety of forest animals are pictured.

INITIATING EVENT: What happened to the character to cause him/her to do something?
The new baby had not arrived and it was nearing "hibernation" time. The bears were going to be taking their long winter sleep.

INTERNAL RESPONSE (response to the kick off): What are the character's feelings about what happened (emotions, goals, desires, intentions or thoughts)?
Alfie was worried, "It might be lost." "Maybe it can't find its way in the snow."

PLAN: What does the character WANT to do? Think about the kick off and the internal response.
One morning while his mother was sleeping, Alfie decided to creep out of the cave to look for his baby brother or sister.

ATTEMPT 1: How does the character resolve the problem?
He went to the lake, but the animal was a beaver.

ATTEMPT 2: He went to the meadow, but the animal was a baby bear.

ATTEMPT 3: He went to the woods, but the animal was a mountain lion.

ATTEMPT 4: 

DIRECT CONSEQUENCE: What happened as a result of the action? Is there a complication in the plan?
Even though Alfie looked all over, he couldn't find his new brother or sister.

RESOLUTION: How does the character feel about the consequence?
He was disappointed (see his expression). He was a long way from home. Is he lost? He was cold and tired.

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Feeling Words

Planning Words

Cohesive Ties
Stage 1 Descriptive Sequence
Alfie is a baby bear. He is a brown bear with shining black eyes.

He likes to explore the forest. He does not like to think that an animal is lost.

He is brave because he went by himself to find his brother or sister.

Alfie lives in a forest cave or den with his parents. It is near hibernation time.

His parents are expecting a new baby, Alfie’s new brother or sister. There is a lake, meadow and woods in the forest.

Stage 2 Action Sequence
Character and setting information is mentioned again.

First, Alfie leaves the cave to try to find his new brother or sister.

Next, Alfie goes to the lake.

After that, Alfie goes to the meadow.

Then, Alfie goes to the woods.

After that, Alfie goes home with his father.

Finally, Alfie sees his new brother and sister.

Stage 3 Reactive Sequence
Initiating Event:
The new baby had not arrived and it was near hibernation.

So (This is a cohesive die or conjunction to connect the Initiating Event and the Reaction.)

Reaction:
Alfie went to find the new brother or sister.

Stage 4 Abbreviated Episode
This stage is characterized by the inclusion of a feeling, a simple or inferred plan, and a consequence

Character, Setting and Initiating Event are again present.

Feeling: Alfie is worried because he thinks that his brother or sister is lost.

Consequence: He looked for his new brother or sister but did not find him or her anywhere.

Show the pictures during a “picture walk”.

Point out important, an perhaps unfamiliar, vocabulary words needed for comprehension (bison, mountain lion).

During Reading:
Use your voice to indicate worry, hope, disappointment as you read the story emphasizing the feelings that Alfie shows.

After Reading: Use directly to retell the story. Model the Complete Episode mapped above. Although there are other episodes, you can include the content about dad coming to rescue Alfie and about the new siblings in the Direct Consequence portion since these things happened at the end of the story. (See the section below for instructions.)
Activities Connecting Language Development to Literacy

There are two other episodes, should you choose to model them using Brady. They are known as “embedded episodes since they would not have happened without the main (first) episode. Each one could be expanded through inference and talked through on its own.

Embedded Episode One:

Alfie is the character.
The forest is the setting: late in the day, cold, damp.
Initiating Event: Alfie sees his father who has come to get him.
Internal Response (feeling): He feels safe as a result of his father’s search.
Consequence: Alfie is going home to get warm and get some rest. (He will also get a

Embedded Episode Two:

Character/Setting: Dad and Mom are in the cave/den.
Initiating Event: They notice Alfie is missing.
Feelings: They are horrified and perhaps think something happened to him
Or
Perhaps they are surprised but know that he knows his way around the lake, meadow and woods,
Plan: They want to fine Alfie and bring him home to be safe and also to see his twin siblings (this was yet another episode in itself)
Attempt: We have to infer what Dad did: Where did he go first? Perhaps it was the lake then the meadow, and then the woods (the sequence of Alfie’s quest).
Direct Consequence: Dad finds Alfie, cold and tired in the woods and takes him home.
Resolution: Alfie feels safe and happy and when he sees his new siblings, he feels satisfied and excited.

Note: Remember, the rescue and the meeting of the new siblings were all rolled into the Direct Consequence of the first episode. On this page, we have taken the information and used it still for inference to make these two embedded episodes. You do not have to do all these options with the first reading of this story. We recommend multiple readings.
Expository Text Connection

Describe a forest using pictures or words or both. Use Braidy Character and Setting icons to help children communicate those components as well as the rings to list the components of the setting.

My picture is of Alfie and the cave. Encourage the children to list components of the setting as you pull down a green ring for each item on the “list”. A list is an expository (information) structure.

Character: Alfie

Setting: a cave/den in a forest

Listing: tree,
cave,
rocks,
grass,
lake.

Extensions:

Have the children, through dramatic play take the part of either Alfie or one of the animals he met as he was looking for his sibling.

Example: Alfie meets the bison.
Alfie sees his father.
Alfie meets his new brother and sister.

Another thought would be to ask the children to draw a picture of some action that Alfie might do with his new brother and sister as they grow up together in the forest.

Early Language/Literacy Goals:

Even if the child cannot retell the first episode by him/herself, you can help him/her using Braidy to combine the Descriptive Sequence and Action Sequence Stages:

Character: Alfie
Setting: a cave/den near a forest
Action: leaves the cave
Action: goes to the lake
Action: goes to the meadow
Action: goes to the woods
Action: goes home with his father

This is an Action Sequence. The temporal tie words of First, Next, After that, Then, Finally can be modeled and used with Braidy at this stage.