

THE 5E MODEL:

HOW TO APPLY IT TO CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

ENGAGE

Begin by sparking curiosity and finding out what children know about a topic. For example, before introducing a book on nature, bring them outdoors to choose a favourite tree. Invite them to journal what they see, hear or feel using words or drawings.

An **OWL chart** — **O**bserved, **W**ondered and **L**earned (see below) — is a useful tool for educators to communicate with children in a warm, engaging way. It also helps children gather their thoughts, questions or new discoveries, and makes their thinking visible.

OWL CHART

What I O bserved	What I W ondered	What I L earned
<p>Teacher: "Let's look at the cover or pictures together."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What do you see? Who is in the story? Where are they? 	<p>Teacher: "Hmm, I wonder..."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What will happen next? What do you think? What are you curious about? 	<p>Teacher: "What an interesting story!"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What did we learn from this story? What new word(s) did we learn? Did the story teach us something?

After this, introduce the book. Talk about the cover, do an interactive read-aloud, and highlight descriptive words for children to connect with their experiences. Allow time for them to add new information or ideas to their OWL charts.

EXPLORE

Provide hands-on experiences to explore the story or topic. For example, organise a scavenger hunt in the park to find items from the book. Children can document their findings using a camera or tablet, or simply draw or sketch their observations in their journal. Prompt with questions such as "What do you notice?", "How would you describe this?", "What do you feel?" or "What sounds do you hear?".

EXPLAIN

Encourage children to share what they have learned during the Engage and Explore stages. Clarify misconceptions, introduce new vocabulary (e.g. "sprout", "bloom") or deepen their knowledge of the topic. Children can expand their OWL charts with new words or ideas.

ELABORATE

Invite children to share their OWL charts with their peers. This helps them build on each other's knowledge and see different perspectives. While facilitating these conversations, reinforce the use of new vocabulary or ask guiding questions to stretch their thinking.

EVALUATE

This stage allows both educators and children to reflect on what they have learned. Depending on the child's developmental level, educators can use a variety of methods:

- Invite children to complete a sentence stem (e.g. "The leaves on the tree are _____").
- Provide images for them to sort into different categories (e.g. shapes, colours, textures), using photos or sketches from the Explore stage or illustrations from the book.

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