

Learning methods

Here are several learning methods you can use when learning a story by yourself or in a story fellowship group. You are not limited to these, but they are tried and tested methods.

1. Drama: Act it out, being sure to represent all the characters and places.

2. Hand Motions: This is not the same as sign language, in which every word or phrase is represented. Instead, each hand motion represents a thought or an idea that will prompt you to remember a portion of the story.

3. Living Statues: Strike a pose to represent an idea from the story. A sequence of poses will help you remember the entire story.

4. Things in my pocket/things in the room/props/objects: Use everyday items to represent the people and places in the story. As you retell the story, move the objects to represent the actions of the people in the places of the story.

5. Storyboarding: Divide a piece of paper into a grid like a tic-tac-toe board. In the first square, draw a picture of the first scene of the story. Continue drawing pictures until you've represented the entire story pictorially. Don't use words, because you want to focus on the action of the story, not on the words. Tell your story using the storyboard and then tell your story without it.

6. Right/wrong: Tell the story with errors. Have the group stop you and correct the errors. This is great for virtual story fellowship groups.

7. Flashcards: Create pictures ahead of time (clip art pictures work well). As you tell the story, show the pictures. Scramble the pictures and have the group put the pictures in order as they retell the story. Once in order, retell it again. You can have more than one set if you want to break up into smaller groups.

Listed below are a few ways to reconstruct the story as a group.

1. Chunks: Retell the story chunk by chunk. Often this method is used to build the story progressively. Listen to a portion of the story. Tell that portion (chunk). Listen to the next section. Retell the first chunk and add the next chunk. Continue the process until you've built the entire story. You can also omit listening to the story again and simply build the story, chunk-by-chunk.

2. Popcorn: In a group, a person tells a small bit of the story. Another person tells the next part and the process continues until the story is completely retold. The storyteller doesn't call on anyone but just lets people volunteer. If the person skips part of the story, the storyteller makes sure that someone else tells the skipped part of the story and the person continues.

3. Ball Toss: Give one person a ball and ask them to start the story. Have them toss the ball when they need help or to give others a turn. Continue to toss the ball so that everyone has a turn and the entire story has been told. You can also do the same thing but go in a circle using any object instead of a ball.