

## Examine Cueing Strategies

Read this passage. Fill in the blanks so the sentences make sense; then compare your answers with the completed passage.

Once upon a time, long ago and far away, there lived a gentle queen. It was the deepest and darkest  winters, and every day the gentle queen would spend h afternoons sitting with her needlework at the only window in the .

The castle window itself was framed in blackest ebony, and anyone passing below could gaze upon the beautiful queen,  as a picture, as she quietly worked at her . One day, as she sat sewing, she pricked her finger  her needle, and three rich, red drops of blood upon the glistening snow below. At the sight of the red blood upon the  snow, the gentle queen whispered: "Oh, how I wish  a baby daughter with hair as black as ebony,  as red as blood and skin as white as snow." And so it came  pass that the queen gave birth to such a child, whom she called Snow White.

### Supporting the English Language Learner

By providing reading material on content familiar to your students and by building background prior to reading a text, you can offset reading comprehension difficulties stemming from limited English language proficiency.

Examine the strategies that help readers comprehend the passage.

**Once upon a time, long ago and far away, there lived a gentle queen. It was the deepest and darkest of winters, and every day the gentle queen would spend her afternoons sitting with her needlework at the only window in the sunlight . The castle window itself was framed in blackest ebony, and anyone passing below could gaze upon the beautiful queen, pretty as a picture, as she quietly worked at her embroidery . One day, as she sat sewing, she pricked her finger with her needle, and three rich, red drops of blood fell upon the glistening snow below. At the sight of the red blood upon the white snow, the gentle queen whispered: "Oh, how I wish for a baby daughter with hair as black as ebony, lips as red as blood and skin as white as snow." And so it came to pass that the queen gave birth to such a child, whom she called Snow White.**

### **Formulaic Expressions**

English language proficiency leads to more experience with formulaic expressions in the language. These may be unfamiliar and thus difficult to predict for the English Language Learner.

#### **"Once upon a time"**

A powerful factor in reading comprehension is the reader's prior knowledge of the topic of the passage or text. In this case the formulaic opening "Once upon a time" suggests that this is a fairy tale that follows a particular narrative structure. This background knowledge facilitates comprehension by helping you predict where the story is leading.

Examine the strategies that help readers comprehend the passage.

**Once upon a time, long ago and far away, there lived a gentle queen. It was the deepest and darkest  of winters, and every day the gentle queen would spend  her afternoons sitting with her needlework at the only window in the  sunlight . The castle window itself was framed in blackest ebony, and anyone passing below could gaze upon the beautiful queen,  pretty as a picture, as she quietly worked at her  embroidery . One day, as she sat sewing, she pricked her finger  with her needle, and three rich, red drops of blood fell upon the glistening snow below. At the sight of the red blood upon the  white snow, the gentle queen whispered: "Oh, how I wish  for a baby daughter with hair as black as ebony,  lips as red as blood and skin as white as snow." And so it came to pass that the queen gave birth to such a child, whom she called Snow White.**

### **Syntactic Cues**

Syntactic cues refer to the grammar and syntax of the language—how words work together.

As you read you need to predict words that fit grammatically. Using your implicit linguistic knowledge of English syntax, you were able to predict and confirm specific words to put in the blanks

Examine the strategies that help readers comprehend the passage.

**Once upon a time, long ago and far away, there lived a gentle queen. It was the deepest and darkest of winters, and every day the gentle queen would spend her afternoons sitting with her needlework at the only window in the sunlight. The castle window itself was framed in blackest ebony, and anyone passing below could gaze upon the beautiful queen, pretty as a picture, as she quietly worked at her embroidery. One day, as she sat sewing, she pricked her finger with her needle, and three rich, red drops of blood fell upon the glistening snow below. At the sight of the red blood upon the white snow, the gentle queen whispered: "Oh, how I wish for a baby daughter with hair as black as ebony, lips as red as blood and skin as white as snow." And so it came to pass that the queen gave birth to such a child, whom she called Snow White.**

### **Graphophonic Cues**

Graphophonic cues refer to the sound/symbol correspondences in words. The "h" at the beginning of the word acts as a clue for the reader.

Examine the strategies that help readers comprehend the passage.

**Once upon a time, long ago and far away, there lived a gentle queen. It was the deepest and darkest of winters, and every day the gentle queen would spend her afternoons sitting with her needlework at the only window in the sunlight . The castle window itself was framed in blackest ebony, and anyone passing below could gaze upon the beautiful queen, pretty as a picture, as she quietly worked at her embroidery . One day, as she sat sewing, she pricked her finger with her needle, and three rich, red drops of blood fell upon the glistening snow below. At the sight of the red blood upon the white snow, the gentle queen whispered: "Oh, how I wish for a baby daughter with hair as black as ebony, lips as red as blood and skin as white as snow." And so it came to pass that the queen gave birth to such a child, whom she called Snow White.**

### **Vocabulary**

Language proficiency and background knowledge of the topic build a wider vocabulary resource.

Examine the strategies that help readers comprehend the passage.

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### Semantic Cues

Semantic cues relate to word meanings.

As you read you need to predict words that make sense within the sentences. Your internalized knowledge of semantics of English enables you to predict and confirm specific words to put in the blanks.

**sunlight** = the words "darkest of winters" followed by the word "afternoon" hint that the missing word refers to light.

**white** = the color of snow; "blood" was also described using a color, "red".

**lips** = references to other parts of the body, "hair" and "skin" and their corresponding colors.

Source

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