

Shared Retelling at Home: A Surefire At-Home Comprehension Strategy

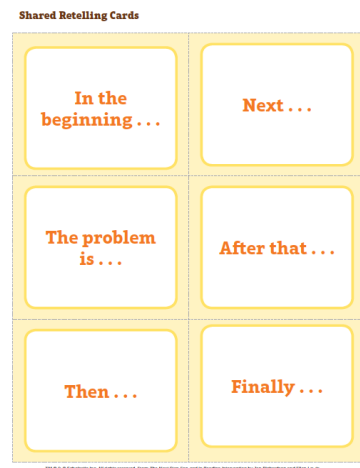
Retelling, one of Jan's 12 Next Step comprehension strategies, helps students understand story structure and helps you evaluate their comprehension. In a shared retelling, students retell the story in a small group or one-on-one with you. Shared retelling helps students:

- Recall events and recognize key characters, actions, and details in a narrative.
- Interact with others who have read the same story.
- Dive deeper into the text.

Here are some ways to adapt the shared retelling strategy to build your students' comprehension at home:

If students have access to a digital device:

- Select an appropriate text for your students: one at their instructional reading level, with a clear storyline. If you need access to online leveled texts, consider a digital library such as Scholastic Literacy Pro.
- Download the Shared Retelling Cards template, print it out, and cut the cards apart. Or, if you prefer, you can simply show students the cards on the screen, from the PDF.
- Livestream option:
 - Livestream a lesson that focuses on the shared retelling strategy, which might be part of a guided reading lesson, a whole-class lesson, or a lesson with one student. After students have read the text, have them retell the story with you—from the beginning to the end—with different students telling the parts.
 - Hold up or screen-share each Shared Retelling Card as readers contribute their parts of the story, using the sentence starter on the card (e.g., "In the beginning . . .").
 - End the lesson by reminding students that this strategy will help them remember the details of a story.
 - Use the following rubric to evaluate a retelling:



- 1—Recalls little or no information.
- 2—Retells basic information (one or two facts).
- 3—Retells important information (main idea/random facts).
- 4—Retells important information (main idea and key facts).
- 5—Retells all important information and adds personal thinking.

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- For great models, watch
 - Jan’s live video lesson “Shared retelling with early and transitional readers”
 - Ellen’s live video lesson “RISE Station 1” for emergent-early readers
 - Jan’s remote live lesson with a transitional reader
- Prerecorded option:
 - Videotape a lesson using a text you have assigned students to read. Tell students you are going to help them retell the story in their own words—from the beginning to the end—and that you’ll give them a prompt for each part.
 - Hold up the Shared Retelling Cards, one at a time, prompting students to use the sentence starter to retell that part of the story. Pause between each card to give students the opportunity to respond.
 - Invite students to send you a video of their oral retelling, or ask them to write their retelling and send it to you. Then post the videos and/or written retellings to a shared platform. Evaluate students’ submissions using the rubric above and use the results to plan your next retelling lesson.

If your students have limited or no online access:

Mail your students’ parents or caregivers a copy of the downloadable Shared Retelling Cards, along with a story the child can read. Include these comments:

- Thank you for taking a few minutes to read with your child. This shared retelling activity will help your child recall important information he or she has read.
- Ask your child to cut out the Shared Retelling Cards in advance.
- Listen to your child read the story.
- Invite him or her to retell the story with you. Take turns using the Shared Retelling Cards until you have retold the entire story together.
- Encourage your child to retell the entire story in his or her own words.

- Use this strategy whenever you and your child read a story or watch a movie together.

Here are Ellen's suggestions to make this activity engaging:

- Invite students to make their own cards at home, following the Shared Retelling Cards template. They can use six index cards or take one sheet of paper and fold it into six sections. Tell them to write a retelling prompt in each section and design it if they'd like to. (Right: Jan's granddaughter Anna shows the Shared Retelling Cards she designed with markers.)
- Encourage parents or caregivers to use the cards whenever they read a story to their child.
- Ask students to use the Shared Retelling Cards to retell a story to a pet, stuffed animals, or action figures. (Right: Jan's grandson Ryan and his dog. They can speak for each member of the group as the story progresses.)

