

Meaning-Based Intervention: Comprehension for Narrative Text

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THE SECRET STAIRCASE

Chapter 1: A Broken Wheel

Pre, During, Post: Cause-Effect. With students, read the three events as a pre-reading activity. Have students look for cause and effect as they read. Students can answer the questions as they read or after they read.

In this chapter, three events occur: A wheel is broken. Ricky has no money, and we find out that Mr. Bell is old. Read to find the cause and effect.

Cause	Effect
a. hit by a car b. rode over rocks c. ran into a tree	A wheel is broken.
a. lost it b. spent it c. somebody took it.	Ricky has no money.
Mr. Bell is old.	a. he speaks loudly. b. he can't do yard work c. he can't find his glasses

Chapter 2. Mr. Bell

Pre, During, Post: Cause-Effect. With students, read the three events as a pre-reading activity. Have students look for cause and effect as they read. Students can answer the questions as they read or after they read.

Cause	Effect
a. The yard is big with weeds b. The gate is heavy c. There are many rocks	Tom says, "That's a lot of work".
a. Mr. Bell is sleeping b. Mr. Bell is hiding c. Mr. Bell can't hear very well.	Tom and Ricky ring the bell three times and knock

Chapter 3. A Secret

Pre, Post: Confirmation. Before reading the chapter, go through each of events or statements. Tell the students that some of the events will occur in the story or are true. Some didn't happen and are not true. After reading they will need to decide which of the things listed occurred

	yes	no
Mr. Bell's house is old.		
Mr. Bell cannot pay people to help him.		
Mr. Bell kicks Patches.		
Patches is a dog.		
Mr. Bell says there is hidden gold in his house.		
Ricky and Tom clean Mr. Bell's yard.		

Chapter 4. The Old House

Pre, Post: Confirmation. In Chapter 4, Tom and Ricky leave Mr. Bell's house. They talk with their mother about Mr. Bell and his house. Before reading this chapter, predict which of the following are true, not true, or you won't know. After reading, you can make changes.

	true	Not true	don't know
There is a hidden stair case in Mr. Bell's house.			
Mr. Bell has a grandson.			
Mr. Bell has a dog.			
There is gold hidden in Mr. Bell's house.			

Chapter 5. Cleaning the Yard

Pre, Post: Confirmation. In Chapter 5, Tom and Ricky go to Mr. Bell's house after school. Before reading this chapter, predict which of the following are true, not true, or you won't know. After reading, you can make changes.

	yes	no	don't know
Tom and Ricky make a big pile of weeds.			
There is a side door that leads to the kitchen.			
Tom and Ricky go in Mr. Bell's kitchen for a drink of water.			
A man yells at Mr. Bell.			
Mr. Bell gives Steve some money.			

Chapter 6. A Bad Surprise

Pre, Post: Confirmation. In Chapter 6, Tom and Ricky go into the house to get some water. They find Mr. Bell laying on the floor. Before reading this chapter, predict which of the following are true, not true, or you won't know. After reading, you can make changes.

	yes	no	don't know
Mr. Bell is dead.			
Steve hit Mr. Bell.			
Tom and Ricky call for help.			
Mr. Bell is taken to his bedroom to rest.			
Mr. Bell asks Tom and Ricky to get his keys.			

Chapter 7. Noises

Pre: Maze. The maze below provides a preview of the chapter. Read with students. When the correct word is select for each, reread the paragraph until fluency is achieved.

Tom and Ricky go to Mr. Bell's [hill - house – when] to get his glasses. Tom put his [bike – bit – bat] key on the kitchen counter. Tom and Ricky hear [bags – when – noises } in the house. Tom and Ricky [up - are – went] scared. Patches starts [sipping – barking – when].

Chapter 8. The Secrete Door

Pre: Maze he maze below provides a preview of the chapter. Read with students. When the correct word is select for each, reread the paragraph until fluency is achieved.

Patches [runs - finds – went] the secret staircase. Tom and Ricky go up the secret staircase to [sit - get – rip] Patches. There is a [map - man – from] in the secret room.

Chapter 9. Another Surprise

Post: Cause and effect. Before reading, go through the chart to let students know that you will be looking for cause and effects. After reading the chapter, identify the cause or effect of each of the following.

Cause	Effect
Mr. Bell called officer Collins	
	Mr. Bell gave Tom and Ricky \$50.
	Mr. Bell can fix his house.

Post: Inferring. After reading the chapter, use story clues to make the following inferences.

Was Steven taken to jail in this chapter? Identify two clues.

Steve was taken to jail.
Clues
1.
2.

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THE TREASURE MAP MYSTERY

This is another mystery with Ricky, his dog Patches, and Tom. In this book, they find an old treasure map. They soon realize that a strange man is also looking for it.

Chapter 1: The Treasure Map

Pre, During, Post: Cause-Effect. With students, read the three events as a pre-reading activity. Have students look for cause and effect as they read. Students can answer the questions as they read or after they read.

In this chapter, three events occur: A wheel is broken. Ricky has no money, and we find out that Mr. Bell is old. Read to find the cause and effect.

Cause	Effect
A man in a white hat wants the map.	a. He steals the map b. He takes the chest. c. Wants to pay mom for the chest.
a. The man lost the map. b. Mom would not sell the man the map. c. Ricky took the map from the man	The man was mad.

Chapter 2: The Map

Post: Cause-Effect. With students, read the three events as a pre-reading activity. Have students look for cause and effect as they read. Students can answer the questions as they read or after they read.

Cause	Effect
a. Tom needed to ask permission. b. Tom needed help. c. Tom was worried about his mom.	Tom called his mom.
Tom and Ricky want to look for treasure.	a. They will get on a ship. b. They will buy a shovel. c. Dad will take them to Bear Lake.
a. A.G. Stone was looking for treasure. b. A.G. Stone drew the map. c. A.G. Stone was in the dirty, green car.	A.G. Stone was written on the map.

Chapter 3. The House on the Map

Pre, Post: Confirmation. Before reading the chapter, go through each of events or statements. Tell the students that some of the events will occur in the story or are true. Some didn't happen and are not true. After reading they will need to decide which of the things listed occurred

	yes	no
The dirty, green car followed them to the Bear Lake		
Dad went fishing,		
Dad lost the map.		
Tom and Ricky find the house that was on the map.		
Patches gets eaten by a bear.		

Chapter 4. Mr. Hill

Pre, Post: Confirmation. In Chapter 4, Tom and Ricky meet Mr. Hill. Before reading this chapter, predict which of the following are true, not true, or you won't know. After reading, you can make changes.

	true	Not true	don't know
Mr. Hill lives in the big house.			
Mr. Hill was angry.			
Mr. Hill kicks Patches.			
Mr. Hill hits Tom			
Mr. Hill knows where the treasure it.			

Chapter 5. Hidden Treasure

Pre, Post: Confirmation. In Chapter 5, Mr. Bell talks with Tom and Ricky. Before reading this chapter, predict which of the following are true, not true, or you won't know. After reading, you can make changes.

	yes	no	don't know
Tom and Ricky find the treasure.			
Mr. Hill would not let the boys dig.			
Mr. Hill's dad found the treasure long ago.			
Mr. Hill used the treasure to buy the house.			

Chapter 6. The Map is Stolen

Pre, Post: Ordering. As a pre-reading strategy, go through the list of events. Then read the chapter. Then say: In Chapter 6, Tom puts the map in the car, but it is stolen. The events below are out of order. After reading, use numbers to put them in the correct order. The first one has been done for you. When finished, re-read them in order to see if they make sense.

1. Tom puts the map in the car.
- ___ The man with the white hat drives away.
- ___ Rickey and Tom run to where Dad was fishing.
- ___ The man with the white hat takes the map.
- ___ Ricky, Tom, and Dad return to the car.

Chapter 7. A Big Surprise

Pre, Post: Action analysis. Before reading, review the characters in the vertical column. Then review the actions along the top. After reading, put an x in the column next to the actions done by each character.

	barks	goes after car	was fishing	stole map	suggests a visit to Mr. Hill
Patches					
Dad					
Tom					
Officer Collins					
Man in white hat					
Ricky					

Chapter 8. The Real A.G. Stone

Pre: Maze. The maze below provides a preview of the chapter. Read with students. When the correct word is select for each, reread the paragraph until fluency is achieved.

Ricky and Tom ride [**was - with - dog**] Office Collins. They go [**ten - up - to**] Mr. Hill's house. Mr. Hill bought the [**map - ram - rip**] from the man in [**at - the - run**] dirty, green car. Mr. Hill [**asked - sat - chill**] the man to steal the map.

Chapter 9. The Rest of the Story

Pre, Post Confirmation. Chapter 9 occurs a few days later. Before reading this chapter, predict which of the following are true, not true, or you won't know. After reading, make any necessary changes.

	yes	no	don't know
Mr. Hill is really Mr. Stone			
Mr. Hill broke the law.			
The man in the white hat goes to jail.			
Mr. Hill goes to jail.			
Mr. Stone gets his map back.			

THE FALLING SKY MYSTERY

This is another mystery with Ricky, his dog Patches, and Tom. In this book, they see a falling star and go to see where it landed. They find that somebody is looking for it too.

Chapter 1: The Space Rock

Pre: Maze. The maze below provides a preview of the chapter. Read with students. When the correct word is select for each, reread the paragraph until fluency is achieved.

Ricky was going to bed. He saw a star [**sitting - falling - little**] in the sky. It [**then - day - was**] a space rock. The [**were - next - sip**] morning, Ricky and Tom go to look for it. It landed [**it- on - map**] a farm. The farm was big.

Chapter 2: The Steel Ball

Pre, Post: Guess the Events. In Chapter 2, Tom and Rickey are looking for the space rock on a large farm. Before reading this chapter, predict which of the following events will actually happen. After reading, you can make changes.

	yes	no
Tom finds a steel ball.		
Tom finds a spaceship.		
Patches runs away with a can.		
Ricky and Tom find the space rock.		
A strange man appears.		
Tom decides to sell some junk to a junkyard.		

Chapter 3: At the Junk Yard

Post: Cause-Effect. With students, read the three events as a pre-reading activity. Have students look for cause and effect as they read. Students can answer the questions as they read or after they read.

Cause	Effect
Tom and Ricky ride their bikes to the junkyard.	a. They will help Mr. Selvin b. They will look for junk. c. They will sell the steel ball.
a. They found gold on the farm. b. Mr. Selvin gave them money for the steel ball. c. They did work for Mr. Selvin	The boys got \$10.
a. They were afraid of Mr. Selvin. b. They were looking for patches. c. They were looking for the space rock.	The boys went back to the farm.

Chapter 4: The Man at the Farm

Pre, Post: Predict. Read the preview during pre-reading. For the post reading, go through the clues. Make a prediction and see if students can determine a reason.

In this chapter, the boys meet a man named Bert. He is looking for things at the farm. After talking with the boys, he leaves in a hurry. Where do you think he's going?

Clues:

1. Tom tells Bert they found a steel ball.
2. Tom tells Bert he sold the steel ball at Mr. Selvin's junk yard.
3. Bert leaves in a hurry.
4. Other?

Prediction: I think Bert is going to _____.

Reason: I think Bert is going there to _____.

Chapter 5: Eddie Helps Out

Pre, Post: Confirmation. In Chapter 5, the boys go to a game store to play some games. Before reading this chapter, predict which of the following are true, not true, or you won't know. After reading, make any necessary changes.

	yes	no	don't know
The boys ride their bikes to the game store.			
The boys meet Mr. Selvin at the game store.			
Eddie tells them that space rocks sometimes land on the ground.			
The boys ride to Mr. Selvin's junk yard.			
The boys decide to get Patches to help.			

Chapter 6: The Hunt Goes On

Pre, During, Post: Action Connections. Before reading, review the characters in the first column and the actions in the second column. During and after reading, draw a line from the action to the correct character.

Character	Action
Ricky	Puts a leash on Patches.
Tom	Is angry.
Patches	Asks the boys for the steel ball.
Bert	Bought the steel ball from Mr. Selvin.
Mr. Selvin	Points a gun at the boys.
Eddie	Barks.

Chapter 7: Secrets from Space

Pre, During, Post: Connections. Before reading, go through the characters and things in Column A. Then go through the events and things in Column B. Tell students that they will be making connections between the items in Columns A and B. Go through and make some initial predictions. As students reading, if they see a connection, they can make it. After reading, students share responses in small group and make corrections.

Column A	Column B
steel ball	rockets
Bert	has a gun
Patches	space
Ricky	gets a leash put around him
Tom	wants to sell space secrets
	space secrets in a can
	tries to run
	finds steel can

Chapter 8: The Falling Spy

Pre: Maze. The maze below provides a preview of the chapter. Read with students. When the correct word is select for each, reread the paragraph until fluency is achieved.

In this chapter Bert is trying to tie up Tom and Ricky. Patches grabs the steel [**car - went - can**]. He runs in the [**that - warm - tall**] grass. Tom, Ricky, and Bert [**go - sleep - into**] to look for him. Bert [**has - from - into**] a gun. Bert [**them - falls - sips**] in the old well. Help comes.

Post: Inferring. What do you think will happen to Bert? Identify two clues.

<p>Bert will _____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>Clues</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p>

THE GOLD MINE MYSTERY

This is another Tom and Ricky mystery. Here they explore an old gold mine. There are strange people there. Will they be able to escape?

Chapter 1: Gold at the Creek

Pre, Post: Confirmation. This is another adventure with Tom and Ricky. In this chapter it's a hot day. Tom and Ricky want to go fishing in the creek, but first they have to help Mr. Bell. Before reading this chapter, predict which of the following are true, not true, or you won't know. After reading, make any necessary changes.

	yes	no	don't know
Mr. Bell can't walk very well.			
Mr. Bell will pay the boys to help him clean.			
Patches runs away.			
Mr. Bell tells the boys about a gold mine.			
The boys go to the gold mine.			
The boys help Mr. Bell clean his yard.			

Chapter 2: Flashlights

Pre, Post: Settings. In this chapter, Tom and Ricky go to different places. Before reading, look at all the different places. After reading, check the places where they were.

Did Tom and Ricky go here in this chapter?	yes	no
Mr. Bell's yard		
Ricky's house.		
King's Market to buy flashlights		
The creek		
The gold mine		
Mr. Selvin's junk yard		

Chapter 3: A Tunnel in a Cave

Pre, Post: Connections. Tell students that in this chapter, Tom and Ricky are fishing at the creek. Then, with students, read through the list of things that happen. Tell them, as they read they have to draw a line to what happened next. When they are done, review with a neighbor and make any corrections.

What happened	What happened next
1. Tom and Ricky catch three fish	They go back and get their flashlights.
2. Patch sees a rabbit	They go in.
3. Ricky and Tom go for a walk.	They put them in an ice chest
4. The boys find a cave.	They find a cave.
4. Ricky and Tom see that the cave is dark.	He chases it

Chapter 4: The Pickup Truck

Pre: Maze. The maze below provides a preview of the chapter. Read with students. When the correct word is select for each, reread the paragraph until fluency is achieved.

In this chapter, the boys are at the fishing hole. They hear a loud [**went - noise - nut**]. They see a pickup [**train - trick - truck**]. It has boxes on [**when - it - stay**]. They walk down the [**ran - road - rug**]. They hear a gunshot.

Post: Prediction. Make the prediction that the boys will go in the cave in the next chapter. Ask students to identify at least one (maybe two) clues.

Prediction: The boys will go in the cave.

Clues:

- 1.
- 2.

Chapter 5: Gunshots

Pre, Post: Ordering. Pre-reading, go through the list of events. Then say: The events below are out of order. After reading, use numbers to put them in the correct order. The first four have been done for you. When finished, re-read them in order to see if they make sense. Check with a neighbor.

1. The boys hear gunshots.
2. The boys hide in some plants.
3. After the truck left, the boys walked up the road.
4. The boys find another cave with a wood gate.
- ___ They find something else.
- ___ They hear the truck coming.
- ___ They find boxes with something in it.
- ___ The boys go in the cave with the wood gate.

Chapter 6: Trapped

Pre, Post: Confirmation. In this chapter, Tom and Ricky are hiding in the cave. Before reading this chapter, read through the list of events. Predict which of the following events happen. After reading, make any necessary changes.

Did this happen?	yes	no
1. The truck comes back.		
2. Tom and Ricky hide.		
3. Patches barks.		
4. The bad men hear patches.		
5. Patches bites one of the men.		
6. The boys point guns at the men.		
7. The boys run.		
8. The men chase the boys.		

Chapter 7: How to Get Away

Pre, Post: Connections. Tell students that in this chapter, Tom and Ricky find their way out of the mine. Then, before reading the chapter, read through the list of things that happen with students. Tell them, as they read they have to draw a line to what happened next. When they are done, review with a neighbor and make any corrections.

What happens	What happens next
1. The boys hear bats.	They walk out of the mine.
2. The boys see a light.	They shoot the rocks to make them look like gold.
3. Officer Collins is there.	He jumps in the creek.
4. The men put gold dust in a gun.	The boys tell him about the mine and the gold.
5. Patches gets gold dust on him.	The men find gold. They follow them out.

THE UNLUCKY NUMBER

This is another Tom and Ricky mystery.

Chapter 1: Car Problems

Pre, During, Post: Cause-Effect. With students, read through the two events in bold as a pre-reading activity. Have students look for cause and effect as they read. Students can circle the correct answer as they read or after they read.

Cause	Effect
Dad has a problem with his car.	a. He will drive to Mr. Cord's Car Shop b. Ricky will help him fix it. c. Eddie will come over.
a. Eddie is making a joke. b. A strange man said, "The cherries are ripe." c. Ricky didn't hear Eddie.	Ricky asked Eddie if he just called him on the phone.

Chapter 2: Stolen Engines

Pre: Maze . The maze below provides a preview of the chapter. Read with students. When the correct word is select for each, reread the paragraph until fluency is achieved.

Dad came home. He said he needed [**at - a - rip**] new engine for his [**can - then - car**]. The new engines were [**being - under - cup**] delivered by truck to Mr. Cord's Car Shop. [**Something - black - every**] bad happened. The car [**dogs - engines be**] weren't delivered. Read to find out what happened.

Pre, During, Post: What happened next? Read the list of events that happened in the first column before reading the chapter. During reading or after reading, select what happened next.

What happened	What happened next
The truck driver got tired.	a. He stopped to rest. b. He got lost.
The truck driver took a nap.	a. He was late. b. The engines were stolen from the truck.
Somebody stole all the engines in the truck.	a. They will sell them in Oak Hill. b. They will sell them to Mr. Cord.
Mr. Cord called Officer Collins.	a. He will call the police in Oak Hill b. He will tell Dad.

Chapter 3: Another Call

This chapter takes place back at Ricky's house. We find out some new information about the trucks and Ricky gets another phone call.

Pre, During, Post: What happened next? Read the list of events that happened in the first column before reading the chapter. During reading or after reading, select what happened next.

What happened	What happened next
a. Ricky is busy and can't help. b. Mr. Cord is busy. c. The engines on the truck were stolen	Dad won't be able to put a new engine in his car for a few days.
Ricky gets another strange phone call.	a. Ricky calls Mr. Cord. b. The man hung up. c. Ricky calls Dad.
a. Ricky got another strange call. b. The games were stolen from the truck. c. Mr. West sold all the games..	Mr. West didn't get new games in his store.

Chapter 4: A Wrong Number

Pre, During, Post: Confirmation. Read through the list of events in the first column. Some of them we know for sure are true. Some we know are not true. And are some we may think are true, but the chapter doesn't really tell us. Mark these in the 'don't know' column.

Events	true	Not true	Don't know
Officer Collings thinks the call about cherries is a code.			
The man on the phone knows where the engines are.			
Mr. West got his games delivered to his store.			
A gang stole the games and the engines.			
The gang is at Bear Lake.			
Eddie has a plan.			

Chapter 5: Eddie's Plan

Pre, Post: Prediction. What do you think will happen? Eddie thinks the strange phone caller has the wrong number. He thinks the callers go the first three numbers correct, but mixed up the last three. His plan is to try all the other number arrangements and call them. What do you think will happen?

- ___ They'll call all the numbers and bother people.
- ___ The boys will call all the numbers and discover who stole the engine
- ___ The boys will tell their plan to Officer Collins.
- ___ The boys will find that Mr. Cord has all the engines.

Chapter 6: Another Plan

Pre, During, Post: Action-Reaction. Before reading, read through all the actions in the Column A. As students read, they need to select the reaction in Column B that goes with the action in Column A. Draw a line from Column A to the correct reaction in Column B.

Column A Action	Column B Reaction
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A man sees a blue truck near Bear Lake when the car engines were stolen. 2. Officer Collins calls a phone number and says, "The cherries are ripe." 3. Officer Collins makes a phone call, and gives them the phone number. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A man answers, "It's about time. What are you waiting for?" • He is told the address of the person with that phone number. • He calls and tells Officer Collins about the blue truck by Bear Lake.

Chapter 7: Fast Move

Pre, Post: Ordering. Pre-reading, go through the list of events. Then say: The events below are out of order. After reading, use numbers to put them in the correct order. The first four have been done for you. When finished, re-read them in order to see if they make sense. Check with a neighbor.

1. Officer Collins drove to the address.
2. They see a blue truck driving the other way.
3. Officer Collins follows the truck.
4. The truck goes to Bear Lake to pick up stolen things.
 - ___ The blue truck drives fast and doesn't stop.
 - ___ They find stolen things in the back of the blue truck
 - ___ Another officer helps stop the blue truck.
 - ___ Officer Collins turns on his flashing lights and chases the car.

Meaning-Based Intervention (MBI)

[MBI Overview](#)

[MBI: Comprehension](#)

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