

K-3 Essential 2, Bullet 4 Higher-order Discussions Sample Video

MAISA Literacy Essentials

<https://youtu.be/VicUPnPnT88>

Narrator: Read alouds involving higher order discussion among children and their teacher before, during, and after reading support comprehension. In this classroom, the class will be discussing a book they read earlier in the day.

Teacher Samantha: Me Jane tells a story of the scientist, Jane Goodall, and it introduces students to her as a young child and teaches them about her dream of becoming a scientist and moving to Africa and studying animals in the wild. So, when teaching them how to have a text-based discussion around a book, I typically start by reading the book. I tell them what the focus is for the book and then I stop at certain stopping points and ask an open-ended question such as what was Jane's dream? And then once I have one student answer, I typically like to ask who can add onto that or encourage them to go back in the book and pull evidence from the book. I often implement turn and talks where I might ask an open-ended question and have them turn and share with a friend. And then after everyone has had a chance to share their thoughts, we turn back as a whole group and they get to hear everyone's answers as a whole group.

Since we were revisiting the book, I decided this time that I was just going to show them the cover, remind them what the book was about, and tell them that today wanted to focus on the author's purpose. Why did the author write this book? What did he want us to know about Jane? So put your eyes up here. Last Friday we read this book titled Me Jane by Patrick McDonald. And this was a biography that Patrick McDonald wrote about Jane Goodall. So we learned that Jane Goodall was a scientist who studied chimpanzees and the environment. So today I'd like us to have a discussion about what information Patrick McDonald wanted us to learn about Jane Goodall. Before we start talking about that, we have our sentence stems up here. Can you put your eyes over by the sentence stems? And we use sentence stems to have a discussion with each other. So I'm going to read the first one. Just as a reminder. Can you repeat it after me? So they're stuck in your brain. Can you say more?

Students: Can you say more?

Teacher Samantha: What do you mean by that?

Students: What do you mean by that?

Teacher Samantha: Can you help me understand?

Students: Can you help me understand?

Teacher Samantha: I agree with you because...

Students: I agree with you because...

Teacher Samantha: I disagree because...

Students: I disagree because...

Teacher Samantha: An example from the book is...

Students: An example from the book is...

Teacher Samantha: So when you're having a discussion today about what Patrick McDonald wanted to teach us about Jane Goodall, we're going to ask that you use some of these sentence stems to talk with each other. Some ways that I prompt for discussion and keep discussion going are with sentence stems. I might say, can you show me an example of this? Or who can add onto that? Or who agrees with so-and-so. So raise your hand if you can share one thing you think the author wanted us to learn about Jane Goodall. What is one thing, Cleo, that we learned about Jane Goodall in this book? Me, Jane.

Student: Jane Goodall likes, likes monkey.

Teacher Samantha: Jane Goodall likes monkeys. Jane Goodall likes chimpanzees. Who can add on to that? Louis.

Louis: She liked to have some animals and she wants, she wanted to be a jungle watcher for chimpanzees.

Teacher Samantha: She wanted to look and watch chimpanzees in the jungle. Ashlynn.

Ashlynn: She helps them live in their habitats because they're almost extinct.

Teacher Samantha: We learned from the nonfiction book, we read that chimpanzees are endangered. So Jane Goodall helps keep them safe in their habitats. Caroline.

Caroline: She sat in a chicken coop for four hours waiting for a chicken to lay in tag.

Teacher Samantha: Let's look at that example from the book. Caroline shared that Jane sat in a chicken coop for four hours waiting for the eggs to hatch. Here she is, waiting for the eggs and she observed the miracle. Who can add on? Who can tell us more? Michael?

Michael: She went in Africa so she could study them, the chimpanzees, because she really liked chimpanzees and her friend was in Africa, so she decided to go with her.

Teacher Samantha: Maya, do you remember that? She wanted to go to Africa to study the chimpanzees? Let's look at that page in the book. I think it was later on in the story. Here it is. Jane dreamed of a life in Africa too. What else did Patrick McDonald want us to learn about Jane Goodall? Waylon.

Waylon: She wants to learn more about the chimpanzee.

Teacher Samantha: I think it's a great idea to encourage kindergartners to discuss texts specifically with one another because I believe it truly promotes a love of learning. And the more they see their peers interested in a text or the more they feel they can contribute to a conversation surrounding a text, the more they believe in themselves as a learner or a reader. And I think the more they want to read when they see that reading teaches them information or includes interesting topics, I think it just is a good motivation for them as they grow older. So Stefania, what's an example from the book that shows us that Jane's dream was to work with animals?

Stefania: The drawings.

Teacher Samantha: Her drawings in her journal. Who agrees with Stefania? You can use the sentence stem I agree with you because. Ashlynn, can you use that sentence stem? Say, I agree with you...

Ashlynn: I agree with you because it looks like she cut out stuff and she drew stuff.

Teacher Samantha: Why did she draw these different pictures?

Ashlynn: Because she loves studying animals.

Teacher Samantha: Because she loves studying animals. Who can give us another example from the book? Caroline?

Caroline: When she wanted to see the chickens after she saw the egg hatch, there was a bunch of baby chicks.

Teacher Samantha: So what does that picture where she saw the eggs hatch? What does that tell us, Caroline about Jane?

Caroline: That she wanted to study the animals.

Teacher Samantha: That she wanted to study animals such as chickens. My hope is that they can all work together to have a discussion surrounding the big picture. What was Jane's dream? How do you know what Page could you find that on? And if they can do this during whole group read alouds my hope is that when they're reading with each other, whether it be partner reading in the library or during guided reading groups with me, they start to become more willing and able to lead these discussions about texts on their own.

Narrator: Learn more at literacyessentials.org.