

Exploring the book

Book: *Philip on the ship*

Time: 10 minutes.

Category: reading skills in English as a foreign language.

Skills: extensive and global comprehension of the text; anticipation skills.

Target group: learners of any age with basic knowledge of English as a foreign language.

Learning activity: exploration of the paratext – book cover, title, illustrations, general book layout.

Learning objectives: development of extralinguistic and encyclopaedic knowledge in order to understand the main themes of the book.

Stimulation of curiosity and motivation to discover what comes next.

Steps

1. Show the book *Philip on the ship* with its main features. If you have a paper book, let learners leaf through the pages, observe the title and the illustrations, read the summary at the back of the book. If you have a digital version (e-book), display cover, title and illustrations with a projector.
2. Encourage and support learners to practice their anticipation skills by making them simple and direct questions about the book paratext, such as “Who is Philip in your opinion?”; “What do you see in the cover?”; “Who are they?”. Create a discussion where everyone answers whenever they want.

Variations

1. After showing the book paratext, write questions to stimulate the encyclopaedic knowledge on different sheets of paper.
2. Divide the class into pairs and give to each group a piece of paper with the questions.
3. Give the pair three minutes to pose the questions and to let the other answer. Do the same for the other person in the couple. Six minutes later, let each couple present their ideas about the book.

Tips

This anticipation activity can be used for any Easy to Read book. Stimulating motivation to read and learn is fundamental in any learning process.

