

Guidelines for Narrative Storybook Choice or Purchase

Length of Story

- Initially 4-6 yr old students are best with a short, “zappy” story (8-10 double pages is ideal.) As confidence/competence increases, story length and complexity can be increased.

Physical

- Pop-up – for young inattentive students, involving them with some physical action works well e.g. pulling an arrow.

Pictures

- Spanning across two pages best, colourful and full of activity
- Lend themselves to attention e.g.: “Look at this! Ohhh! Oh No! Look what’s happening”!
- Not repetitive - some books repeat the picture but not the text – makes “One Hand” use hard.
- Avoid books with unnecessary and distracting characters / items which have no relationship with the story.

Text

- Be mindful of amount per page, language level and ideally links to illustrations.
- Complexity of text (will it help develop language structures e.g.: adjectives, prepositions, pronouns)

Complexity and appeal of plot

- Needs to be fairly simple and straight forward without hidden agendas – obvious beginning, middle, end is best.

NB: Student retell - How easy is this story to retell?

Number of characters

- Too many characters make the story hard to follow and retell (especially) Less characters supports retell for struggling students.

Humour

- Always a “hit” with students.

Rhyme

- HPP requires some rhyming books (vary choice from 2 line rhyming to alternate lines rhyming)

Prioritise books that are culturally and linguistically matched for your HPP students.