

The Wind and the Sun



Approach: One to one

Focus: Retelling and critical thinking.

Resources: Video recording on laptop computer; 4 pictures.

Level: Year 4 and year 8

Questions/instructions:

This activity uses the computer.

Click the *The Wind and the Sun* button.

We will start this activity by listening to a fable called 'The Wind and the Sun'. A fable is a story which has a moral or a lesson in it. You will need to listen carefully because when the story has finished, I'm going to ask you to tell it to me.

Click the *Play* button.



Video script:

One day, the Wind and the Sun were having an argument. "I'm stronger than you!" said the Sun. "No you're not," said the Wind. "I'm much stronger than you!" As they argued, they saw a man wearing a red cloak, walking along the road. "I propose a test," said the Wind. "Whichever one of us can tear the cloak from the back of that man is the stronger." The Wind took the first turn. He blew so hard that leaves and branches were torn from trees. Clothes hung out to dry were blown off the line. Everyone hurried indoors for shelter. But the Wind could not take the cloak off the man. The man shivered and held tightly to his cloak. "You have failed," said the Sun. "And now it is my turn." The Sun shone. It was very warm. The man felt hot and thirsty. He stopped to drink a cup of water. The Sun shone brighter and the man became hotter and hotter. He pulled off his boots. It was much too hot to wear them. At last he came to a stream. He sat on the bank and dipped his feet in the cool water. But the Sun shone warmly on his back. The man decided to lie down in the shade of a tree to rest. He took off his cloak and laid it across the grass. "I have won," said the Sun to the Wind. "As you can see it is easier to influence people with gentleness than with force."

Here are some pictures that show parts of the story.

Place pictures in front of student in order 1 to 4.

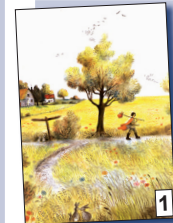
- Now I want you to retell the fable to me. Use these pictures to help you as you tell the story to me.

Give student time to retell the fable.

There is a main message or lesson at the end of this story which said: 'it is easier to influence people with gentleness than with force'.

- Try to explain to me what that lesson means.

PROMPT: What does the main message of the story mean?



	% responses	
	y4	y8
Details included: argument	83	92
between wind and sun	84	91
about who is stronger	71	88
test (<i>who can get cloak off</i>)	77	90
red cloak	24	37
wind blew	73	86
leaves/branches torn off trees	37	42
clothes blown off line	25	29
people sheltered	26	28
wind made man shiver/cold	15	23
man held on tightly to cloak	34	41
cloak stayed on	31	44
sun shone	59	75
man hot	62	73
man thirsty/drank water	11	12
man took off boots	78	84
put feet in water/stream	69	70
still sun shone on man's back	31	40
wanted to rest/lie down	71	77
took off cloak	89	96
ending such as sun saying "I have won"	50	51
Order of main events:		
all in correct order	34	51
slightly jumbled	47	41
seriously jumbled	19	8
Explanation of message:		
very good	4	21
moderately good	29	42
poor	67	37
Total score:		
19-21	4	10
16-18	19	27
13-15	30	34
10-12	21	19
7-9	16	7
less than 7	10	3

Commentary:

Both year 4 and year 8 students gave a fuller account of the effects of the sun than of the effects of the wind. About 15 percent more year 8 than year 4 students obtained total scores of 16 or more.