

Cover to Cover

Purpose

Students will think about the way a book is constructed by identifying the front cover, back cover, and title page of a book.

Materials

For the teacher: large-size teaching book with a picture and title on the front cover

Activity

A. Pre-Activity Discussion

1. Tell the students that you will be reading a book from “cover to cover.”
2. Show them the book, pick it up, and hold it as if you were going to read it.

B. Explore the Book

1. Ask the students if they can make an imaginary book by holding out their hands (demonstrate with your own hands).
2. Direct students to close and open their imaginary books. Point out that there is something missing in the middle.
3. Pick up the real book. Show the students that in a real book, there are lots of pieces of paper in the middle called pages. Show them page one, and count aloud some of the pages in the book.
4. Tell the students that you now have a real book with pages and that you think you want to read this book but you need to be sure. Ask students: “How do you find out what the book is about?” (Hold up the front cover while you are speaking.)
5. Have students guess from the cover picture what the book might be about. Help students notice that there are also words on the cover.
6. Read the title of the story. Ask students: “What kind of story is this?”
7. Show them that there is also a page with the title on it and the name of the person who wrote the story. Say the author’s name aloud together, and name some other books by the same author.

(continued)

EXTENDING THE ACTIVITY



Have students make their own books. Provide them with precut pages and two holes in the middle for a yarn binding. Have them draw or stamp a picture of what they want their stories to be about on the front cover. Have students put their names on the bottom of the title page.

INCORPORATING TECHNOLOGY



After reading a fairy tale, make a proclamation scroll. Tell the students that this is a scroll: another type of book that gives information but which has no covers at all. Show the students how to “scroll” from page to page on the computer.

Standards Link K.2.1

Activity (continued)


C. Close the Activity


1. Tell the students that now you know you want to read this story. Sit with the students, holding your real book.
2. Show them the back cover of the book. Ask them if you can start from there, and help them determine the correct location to start reading the book.
3. Show how the book opens and closes with the front cover on top. Have them make their imaginary books again and open them with the front cover (left hand) on top.
4. Read your story from cover to cover, and have students follow your finger through the book as you read the words.


Questions for Review


Basic Concepts and Processes

After the story, practice what the students have learned by asking and discussing the following:

 Can you go to the bookshelf and pick out a book that you would like to read?

 How can you tell that this one is good?

 Can you get it ready to read? Where do we start?

 If I really like this book and I want to know who wrote it, where do I look?
