

## Students take charge – Reciprocal Teaching

Ms Lubliner: Okay, could I have group one please come up to the table?

Presenter: At Frank Love Elementary School reading expert, Shira Lubliner, shows off a technique called reciprocal teaching that's designed to improve reading comprehension.

Ms Lubliner: Tap-tap, tap-tap, a sea otter lies on her back in the water.

Presenter: The goal of reciprocal teaching is to prepare students to run their own discussions, taking turns as leaders. But first, Ms Lubliner shows them how to guide a conversation about a book.

Ms Lubliner: See, my first job is to ask a question and I'm going to try and ask an important main idea question, starts with a question word. Let's see, what does the sea otter do to prepare lunch?

Presenter: There is no replacement for a teacher who can generate a good discussion and get kids to really ponder what they've read and the whys and wherefores, and connect those meanings to their own lives.

Ms Lubliner: I'm going to predict that we're going to learn some more about what, um, what sea otters eat.

Presenter: Now it's time for the kids to lead their own discussion, with a little help from Ms Lubliner.

Female Pupil: It's a sign of danger.

Presenter: The kids begin with the first of four clear steps, asking a q.

Female Pupil: What does the sea otter have to be careful of?

Presenter: The next step is clarifying the meaning of unfamiliar words.

Female Pupil: Prefer [for].

Male Pupil: It means like somebody likes something better than they like something else.

Female Pupil: Afloat. Jessie?

Jessie: Afloat means a little bit above the water and floating on the water and not just under it or over it.

Presenter: The next phase of reciprocal teaching is summarising, finding the main idea.



Female Pupil: Sea otters have a lot of enemies, so they have to be careful of eagles, [fly], uh, [diving] [unintelligible 00:01:57] and fishermen.

Presenter: The final step is prediction.

Female Pupil: I predict that I learn more about otters in this story.

Presenter: Reciprocal teaching promotes a give and take between teachers and students that achieves the ultimate purpose of reading, finding the meaning.