

Me and Rupert Goody

Pre-Reading Activities

Teacher Notes

Pre-reading activities help students become more active readers by encouraging them to think about what they are going to be reading, by asking them to make connections to information they already have, and by helping them to develop new information that they will need to know.

There are several types of pre-reading activities. Readers can preview a selection by flipping through it and paying careful attention to headings and chapter titles. Readers can also read summaries of the selection and make predictions about what they think the selection will contain. Readers can create K-W-L charts where they list what they already, what they want to know, and (after the selection is completed) what they learned. Readers can answer a series of critical questions or create a word web or respond to a brief reading of a portion of the selection. Pre-reading strategies help a reader to "get into" a work; they provide a hook that helps pull the reader into the work.

Three pre-reading activities are provided for Me and Rupert Goody, a novel by Barbara O'Connor. You may choose which strategy works best for your reader. Enjoy the novel!

Pre-Reading Activity #1 introduces students to author, Barbara O'Connor, by having them explore her Web site, read information about her work, and record information on a word web.

Pre-Reading Activity #2 asks the students to complete a K-W-L chart.

Pre-Reading Activity #3 asks the students to answer a series of questions about situations they might have seen in their own lives.

About the Author

Pre-Reading Activity#1

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Have you ever read anything by Barbara O'Connor? If so, what?
 2. Have you ever read a book, poem, or story that uses dialect?
 3. Do you think it is important to know something about the author of a book before you read it? Why or why not?
-

Take notes on Barbara O'Connor, the author of Me and Rupert Goody, from the information provided on her Web site <http://www.barboconnor.com/>.

Pre-Reading Activity #2

Know	Want to Know	Learned
What do I know about life in small country towns?		
What do I know about foster children?		
What do I know about ruby mining?		
What do I know about the novel?		

Pre-Reading Activity #3

1. Have you ever felt as though you didn't belong in your family? Why?
2. What do you think is the most important thing about being a part of a family?
3. Do you feel like your life is predictable? Why or why not?
4. In what kind of situation do you think it would be important to a person that his or her life be predictable?
5. How would you feel if an outsider suddenly "showed up" and claimed a place in your family?

©Copyright MHundley 2002