

Interview a character

Materials Needed:

None

Writing the questions

1. Choose a confident student in your class who likes reading. Tell them to choose a character they like from the story they are reading.
2. Tell the student they are going to be interviewed by the class as the character.
3. Tell the class that (Becky Thatcher, from *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*) is going to visit the class. Ask each student to write a question for (Becky).
4. Walk around the room, helping students with their questions.
5. As students write their questions, ask them to say it to the class. This is to avoid repeating any questions.
6. Encourage students to write some follow-up questions. This will help you keep the early finishers busy until the others finish.

The interview

1. Ask (Becky) to come to the front of the class.
2. Encourage students to ask their questions, including any follow-up questions.
3. At the end of the interview, congratulate the class for a job well done.

Variation

You can connect the questions to the work students are doing in class. For example:

Grammar

... asking questions about how (Becky) spends her day and her weekend to practise the simple present

Vocabulary

... asking questions on specific topics, such as holidays, or the environment.



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Why do this activity?

- While most students may feel a sense of control when reading, speaking can easily intimidate many students. The activity allows all students to prepare for the interview.
- Students choose the questions they want to ask. In this way, questions are based on the level of each student.
- The interview encourages students to think of the character beyond the story, imagining information that is coherent, but not necessarily mentioned in the story.
- The large number of questions gives students an opportunity to go beyond the language into real communication.