

Running Dictation: Describing the background of a story

Post three to four big copies of this text in the hallway outside the classroom. Ask the students to copy the text onto their worksheets on their desks as quickly as possible without moving their worksheets from the desks.

Students “carry” bits of the text in their brains and thus remember them.

When they are finished they compare their version with the original and correct their mistakes.

Tip: in this extract the story background is described by using the past progressive tense. Point out this typical use of the past progressive in story backgrounds.

Follow up activities:

A: Continue the story

or

B: Students write another story opening using the past progressive tense. (Opening of a spooky story, a holiday story, a Christmas story...)

It was a sunny afternoon in October. The birds were singing in the trees, squirrels were climbing up and down the branches and collecting nuts for the winter. A fairly warm wind was blowing from the South.

Golden and russet leaves were flying through the air. I was walking along the narrow path and listened to the rustling of the leaves under my feet.

Suddenly aappeared in front of me...

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