

Lesson Plan

Organizing Text

Book: *Spring Animals*

Series: Spring Is Here

Level: Scout

Objective

To help students practice using the table of contents to understand how a text is organized.

Supplies

- *Spring Animals* book
- Whiteboard

Before the Activity

Divide the whiteboard into three columns, labeling each one with one of the chapter titles in *Spring Animals*: “Waking Up,” “New Life,” and “A Spring Day.”

Activity

Open *Spring Animals* to the table of contents on page 3. Explain that a table of contents lists the chapters in a book, along with the page number where each chapter starts. Readers can look at the chapter titles to guess what the chapters might talk about. To help students practice guessing a chapter’s content based on its title, read the following sentences. Have students guess which chapter each sentence comes from and explain why they chose that chapter.

- Animals have babies. (Answer: “New Life”)
- Some animals rest all winter. (Answer: “Waking Up”)
- A bird sits on a branch. (Answer: “A Spring Day”)

Next, explain that students can use the chapters to understand how an author organized a text. They can identify the main idea of each chapter. The main idea is a single sentence that describes what the chapter is about.

Read *Spring Animals* out loud to students. At the end of each chapter, invite students to brainstorm the main idea of the chapter. Write their answers in the appropriate column on the whiteboard, using the following sample answers as a guide:

- “Waking Up”: This chapter is about how animals that rest all winter wake up in spring.
- “New Life”: This chapter is about how animals have babies in spring.
- “A Spring Day”: This chapter describes what some animals do on a spring day.

Evaluation

Could students match each sentence with the chapter it came from? Could students identify and explain the main idea of each chapter?

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 1 (RI 1.2, 1.5).