Storytelling - Don’t tell the story

Sometimes you can base a lesson or project around a story which you or your learners don’t necessarily need to read! Put the following stages in the best order from 1 to 9. Note there are several possible combinations.

1. Create lead in ‘before’ tasks – for example, perhaps some visuals connected to the story, particularly where you would like to clarify some central lexis.

2. Ask learners to find new partners and tell their new partner their story.

3. Ask your learners to answer the questions on the worksheet fully in pairs.

4. Learners write up their stories.

5. Learners memorise the questions and their answers in pairs.

6. Take away the questions/worksheets and ask them to remember the answers again, in order.

7. Select a story you feel is appropriate for your learners.

8. Finally – optionally – you may want to make the original story available for learners to read and compare to their own.

9. Prepare some questions on a worksheet (8-12 are usually enough) about the whole story, in the correct order. The questions should require ‘open’ answers, i.e. the learners cannot answer ‘yes’ or ‘no’. They should be about major parts of the story, but may also give background detail e.g. What was one of the main characters like?