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Comparison of Speaking and Reading Ability Development through Retelling a Story

Panel: Literature and Drama

The Japanese Course of Study by Ministry of Education says the overall objective of foreign language education is to develop students' basic communication abilities while deepening their understanding of language and culture, and fostering a positive attitude toward communication. In language activities for grade 2 at junior high school, students are engaged in communication that involves conveying factual information and making judgments on what they have read. "Story retelling" as an instructional strategy provides an opportunity to the readers to summarize and explain what they have read. Through the activity in a daily English class, we are aiming at building a foundation of students' practical communication ability: to convey factual information about the story and to add their own opinions to the fact in the story to others.

We will show how effectively the work of "retelling" is connected to promoting students' communication abilities (reading ability and speaking ability).