

Reading signs and symbols

Objective

To predict warning, information and instruction from picture symbols and signs.

Background knowledge

At home or out in the community, generic pictures and symbols are a familiar part of our daily lives. They provide instant warning, information and instruction using few words. They are particularly useful for early readers, as their simple bold picture silhouettes and symbolic shapes are usually a logical replacement for the written word and are generally easy to interpret. With adult support, young children are able to understand and remember the meaning of many of these symbols.

By relying on similar interpretation and prediction devices used to comprehend picture stories, children are capable of understanding and responding to many of the everyday symbols and signs around them (for example, a heart for love, a man or woman for toilets). In addition to general information, many signs also prompt them to consider what may happen to their personal safety or the welfare of others if they ignore the warning and instruction being offered.

Skills

Explain to the children that these activities will show them how to predict the meaning from key clues in pictures and symbols.

- **Photocopiable page 65 'Signs'**
 - Explain to the children that information signs around them at home and in the outside world are there to help them, to keep them safe and to guide them.

- Talk about how images can suggest something without words. Tell the children that symbols for feelings, actions, occupations, events and so on are often represented by simple drawings of objects that are linked to these things in some way.
- Hand out the photocopiable sheet and ask the children to talk in pairs about the meaning of each picture symbol and to write the words that match the pictures from the list of words given.
- Explain that symbols are also displayed as signs that warn, inform or instruct you (for example, weather forecast symbols).
- Ask pairs to work out what they think the signs mean in these categories – what do they think might happen if they or others ignored the warning or instruction signs?
- Finally, tell them to draw their own symbol or sign for their partner to see if they can guess the meaning.

Comprehension

- **Photocopiable pages 66 or 67 'Weather'**
 - Hand out the first photocopiable sheet. Ask the children to look at and discuss the pictures.
 - Then ask them to answer the questions and complete the sentences on the second photocopiable sheet.

Digital content

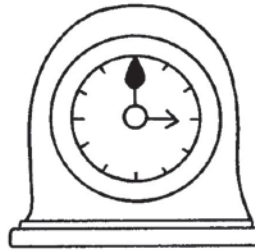
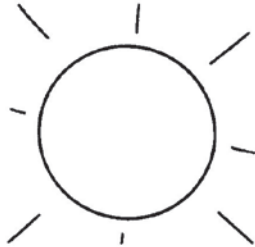
On the digital component you will find:

- Printable versions of all three photocopiable pages.
- Answers to 'Signs' and 'Weather (2)'.

Reading signs and symbols

Signs

■ What do these symbols mean? Match the words with the picture meaning.









Happy

Love

Magic

Time

■ What do these signs mean?

Warning signs	Information signs	Instruction signs
		
		

Illustrations © 2009, Cathy Hughes/Beehive Illustration.

Reading signs and symbols

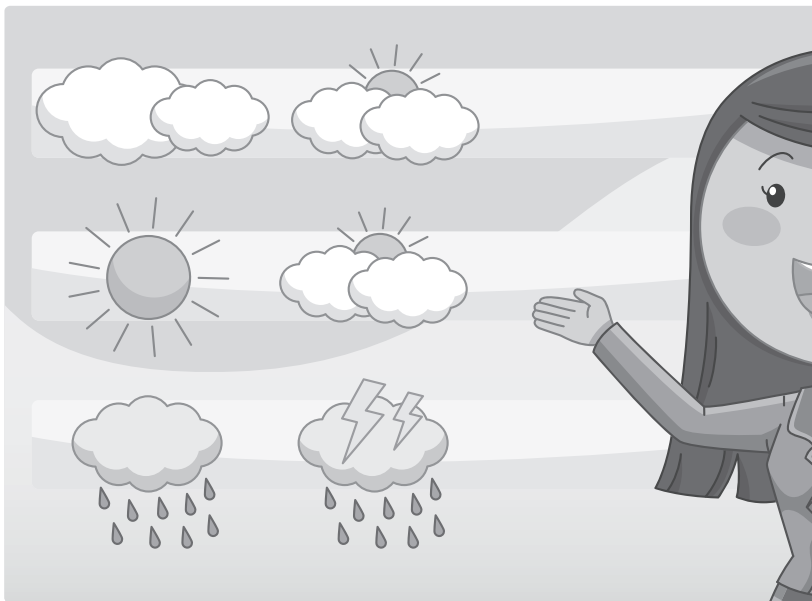
Weather (1)



sunny



rainy



It will be cloudy with some sunshine.

Reading signs and symbols

Weather (2)**1. What is the woman doing in the picture?**

The woman is giving a weather forecast.

The woman is waving.

The woman is _____

_____ .

2. The woman is pointing to a weather symbol on the chart. What will the weather be today?

Cloudy with rain and lightning.

Cloudy with some sun showing through.

The weather will be _____

_____ .

3. What would the symbol on the chart be if the girl in the picture was making a snowman?