

Illustrating a story

Illustrating a story can be fun if done by children or adults who like being creative. It doesn't matter if the story proceeds from an English-speaking country or from the students' own culture. The activity combines cognitive and affective elements: students not only have to grasp the essence of the story to retell and illustrate it but also have fun completing an artistic task.

The example shown below is based on a Russian traditional tale.

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The Tale of Kolobok (round bun)



Illustration by Nina Mordowina

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The Tale of Kolobok (round bun)

Once upon a time an old couple lived in a village. One day the man said to the woman: "See if there is enough flour left to make a Kolobok". The old woman scraped the flour tin and she got a few handfuls of flour. She mixed the flour with sour cream and formed it into a Kolobok. Then she baked it in the oven and left it on the windowsill to cool. Suddenly the Kolobok started to roll. It rolled into the garden out through the gate away from the house.

After some time, it met a rabbit. The rabbit told Kolobok: "Kolobok, Kolobok, I'll eat you now." Kolobok said: "Don't eat me, rabbit. I'll sing you a song. Then Kolobok sang the song and rolled away very quickly.

It rolled down the road until it met a wolf. The wolf told Kolobok: "Kolobok, Kolobok, I'll eat you now." Kolobok said: "Don't eat me, wolf. I'll sing you a song. Then Kolobok sang the song and rolled quickly away until it met a bear.

The bear told Kolobok: "Kolobok, Kolobok, I'll eat you now." Kolobok said: "Don't eat me, bear. I'll sing you a song. Then Kolobok sang the song and rolled quickly away until it met a fox.

The fox told Kolobok: "Kolobok, Kolobok, I'll eat you now." Kolobok said: "Don't eat me, fox. I'll sing you a song. After Kolobok had finished the song, the fox said: "This was a very nice song, Kolobok. But I couldn't hear it very well. Could you sit on my nose?" Kolobok hopped onto the fox's nose and sang the song again. When it had finished, the fox said: "Could you sit on my tongue and sing the song once again?" Kolobok jumped onto the fox's tongue and the fox gobbled it up.