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Reading Strategy: Prediction

Have you ever watched a movie or TV show with your kids and had them tell you at the end, *"I knew that was going to happen!"* ? Whether we're watching a mystery whodunit or a thrilling epic fantasy, it is fun to figure out what will happen *before* it is revealed. This kind of thinking is also a very helpful strategy for reading comprehension—it's called **Prediction**.

Predicting starts from the time your child reads the title and sees the cover of the book! If your child picks up a book called *Sofia Martinez: My Fantastica Family*, they might predict that the story will focus on family. On the cover, Sofia is smiling, so a reader might predict the book will be about a happy family and will have a happy ending.

On the other hand, if your child picks up *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark*, they will predict that the book will have many scary stories. They will expect scary things to happen. They might even predict they'll be frightened if they read the stories.

Scary stories are a good example of how we predict. We do it all the time with scary stories, like predicting where the monster will turn up to scare us!

If your child reads about a character who is walking through a cemetery, they might predict an encounter with some kind of supernatural creature like a ghost, vampire, or ghoul. They might predict that a mist will come out of nowhere.
> *Predictions are also based on your child's *background knowledge*. We cover that on the Skill Sheet, **Making Connections/Background Knowledge**. If your child has seen scary movies before, then they will know that ghosts, vampires, or ghouls often show up in stories that have cemeteries.

The strategies on these Skill Sheets **all work together to help comprehension. Asking questions, relating what they are reading to what they already know, and predicting what will happen next all combine to become powerful strategies to propel your child's reading forward.** When kids are engaged in what they are reading, they remember it, and they understand it.

Plus, once your child gets the hang of predicting and starts making predictions that are correct, it boosts their confidence in reading!