

Prediction Chart

What is a Prediction Chart and why is it important?

Prediction (Fitzgerald, 1983) is a strategy that encourages students to make several educated guesses about what is going to happen in a story or what the story is going to be about. Students use information from the text and from prior knowledge to guide them in their predictions. Then they read to see if the predictions are correct. A Prediction Chart (Hammond, 1991) is a written record of predictions with a space to compare the predictions to what actually occurred in the story. This strategy helps students monitor their understanding of the text, builds a purpose for reading, and involves students in writing.

How can I use a Prediction Chart with my students?

You can guide students to make predictions by asking questions such as: “What do you think will happen next?” and “By looking at the picture, what do you think the story will be about?” You can then guide them to complete the Prediction Chart. For example, “Before you read Chapter 3, think about what has happened. What do you think might happen next?” Have students fill in the column under the word “Prediction.” Once students have read the passage, have them fill in the column under the words “What Happened.” Discuss the similarities and differences between students’ prediction and what really happened in the story. Continue to ask these types of questions throughout the reading of the text.

Following is an example of a completed Prediction Chart for *Hatchet*.

Prediction	What Happened
Chapters (3-7) Brian is going to need food and shelter. I bet he uses a hatchet to kill a bear and get food. He'll find a cave to live in and take medicine and clothes from the plane.	Brian found berries to eat. He built a lean-to under a stone ledge for shelter. The plane sank in the lake and he could only save his hatchet.
Chapters (8-12) I think he'll live in the cave and learn to catch fish. He'll make a trap to catch small animals like rabbits.	He lived in the lean-to and learned to live in the forest. He made a fire using his hatchet and tree bark. He carved a spear and bow and arrow to catch fish. He also ate raw turtle eggs.
Chapters (13-18) Animals would be a danger. Bears might be in the woods.	A moose attacked him, and Brian almost drowned. A tornado came through and wrecked his lean-to. But the tornado also helped him because it turned the plane around in the lake so the tail stuck up and Brian could reach it.
Chapter (19) Brian will escape by using the plane radio to call for help. A search party will come and rescue him.	Brian found supplies in the plane. He took the radio transmitter and left it on, even though he thought it was broken. A fur buyer, flying in the area, heard the transmitter and saw the plane. He rescued Brian.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Prediction Chart

Prediction:

What Happened:

