

How Can Stories Increase Learning?

Have you ever been disappointed to discover that, even though you are quite certain that your students understand some important idea, they don't seem to remember it at all in a new context, for example, in a later lesson, in another teacher's class, on a field trip, or in life outside school? These are examples of failure to transfer. Transfer is what happens when people find themselves in a new situation, recall knowledge they have already acquired, and use that knowledge appropriately. If we learn something but are unable to recall it in unfamiliar circumstances or are unable to appropriately apply what we've learned, can we really say we've learned anything at all?

