

# Story Retelling – Core Word Fun

*Just the Big Ideas, Ma'am*

**WHAT:** Story retelling is a powerful strategy to support language and literacy. This tip describes how a smart partner can use a student's AAC device to summarize story parts.

**WHY RETELL STORIES USING CORE LANGUAGE:** This approach can help students:

- Learn the big ideas in a passage
- Observe how simple vocabulary, including primarily core language, can be used for story retelling
- See consistent models of core language, helping them learn where to find key words

**HOW TO RETELL STORIES USING CORE LANGUAGE:**

- 1) Think 'What is the big idea in this passage?'
- 2) Summarize that big idea using short sentences, and kid-friendly language
- 3) Remember to use mostly core – this will be quicker, and will support core learning
- 4) Speak all words, but model only core
- 5) Sample for the passage to the right

The prince in the woods heard the words the old woman yelled to the beauty. He watched as the princess threw down her braids and thought about how he could save her.

**HE WANTs to HELP her**

bull shark

They both have torpedo-shaped bodies to cut through the water. They have fins and flippers in similar places to help them swim quickly.

*Sharks & Dolphins: A Compare-Contrast Book*  
by Kevin Kurtz / Epic Books

**THEY EAT  
AT NIGHT**

**THEY GO FAST  
IN WATER**

Did you know that while you're fast asleep, bats are busy filling their bellies? Bats are nocturnal, meaning they're active at night. This way of life has many advantages for a bat. Insect-eating bats often feast

*National Geographic Readers: Bats*