

# Strategies for Learning and Remembering

## 1. Reading Aloud

Choose a story and get a piece of string, yarn or a shoe lace about 8 inches long (20 cm). Read your story aloud with lots of expression to yourself, your pet, or willing listener. Picture the story in your imagination. Put a knot in your string to record your reading. After you have read the story out loud five times (and put five knots in your string), try telling out loud to yourself without looking at the story. If you get stuck, check that part of the story, then put the story down and keep telling. Now read the story **more** times out loud with lots of expression. Remember to use imaginative pictures (and put five more knots in your string). You should be able to tell yourself the story now without reading it at all.

## 2. Drawing

Think of your story as a cartoon. Draw out your story as ten to 14 cartoon pictures, but do not add the word balloons. Check to be sure your cartoon shows the beginning, middle, and end of the story. Colour your pictures. Show your cartoon to a friend and tell them the story using your cartoon as your illustrations.

## 3. Listening

Read your story into a recording device with as much expression as you can. Listen to the story four times. See the story in your imagination. During the fifth time, tell the story along with the tape. Turn off the recording device and tell the story to yourself out loud. Could you get all the way through? Listen to the part where you got stuck and try saying just that part. Now, go back to the beginning and try telling the whole story again.

## 4. Singing

Sing your story to a familiar tune (Three Blind Mice? Teensy Weensy Spider?)

## 5. Improvising

Act out your story as though you were in a play. Try the different characters with different voices and different walks. Then try telling the story as though you were the narrator, adding the different characters as the story unfolds.

## 6. Mapping

Create a map of the story (or path of events) and tell the story to yourself or willing listener using the map as your guide.

## 7. Sequencing

Condense the whole story down to 16 essential lines. Then shrink the 16 down to eight. Put the eight lines on index cards. Shuffle the cards. Put them in order. Shuffle them again. Put them in reverse order. Shuffle the cards and see how fast you can order them. Now try telling the condensed version out loud to yourself. Next do the longer version.