

**Predicting means using clues in the text to foretell what will happen next.**

### Introduction



It's often very useful to stop when you're reading a story or an article, and figure out what you think is going to happen. Sometimes when you use that strategy, it makes you notice some details that you may have missed in what you have read so far. The strategy also helps you to be wide awake to details that are presented in the rest of the story.

Sometimes, you can get clues from an accompanying picture.

Sometimes, predicting is done with a whole class of students, rather than when you're on your own. Students in groups could use a **think, pair, share** format.

If you can find someone to pair with and share predictions while you work on this next story, that would be great.

Otherwise, you can still try the following strategy on your own.

As you read, you will be given the opportunity to discover whether your predictions come true.

Predicting can be done **before reading** and **during reading**.



### **Practice**



Before you begin to read the story of **Rabbit, Coyote and Pine Gum boy**, look at the title and predict what the story might be about.

**My prediction:**

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Now read the story on the next page. **While you're reading, perhaps you can imagine how it would look if someone made an animated cartoon on the basis of the story.**

## Rabbit, Coyote, and Pine Gum Boy

A long, long time ago, there was a Coyote who loved melons so much that he decided to grow them for himself. Whenever he was not out hunting in the forest, he would be planting and weeding in his melon patch.

One day Coyote discovered that somebody had stolen two of his melons -- just when they had grown so big and fat and ripe! Coyote huffed and howled and swore to catch a thief. He sniffed and sniffed -- he could detect nothing but the sweet scent of melons. He searched and searched on the ground for footprints -- he could find nothing but trampled vines.

The next morning, Coyote decided to forget the incident and went hunting as usual. When he came home, two more melons were missing. He yelped and yowled and swore to get his revenge.

He sniffed and searched around and around the melon patch, until AHA! he saw Rabbit teeth marks on the vines and Rabbit nail marks on the ground near a fence. "That miserable Rabbit!" barked Coyote. "How dare he steal my melons!"

Coyote thought and thought, then went to find a pine gum tree. He filled a jar with pine gum, brought it back to the spot where Rabbit had dug under the fence, and squeezed the gum into the shape of a boy.

**Stop here for a moment.**

**You were asked to make a prediction after you read the title of the story.**

**In what ways was your prediction correct? In what ways was it mistaken?**

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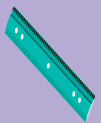
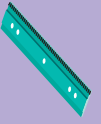
**Now predict what you think will happen as a result of Coyote's plan.**

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Rabbit, Coyote, and Pine Gum Boy (continued)



In the middle of the night, Rabbit crawled under the fence again, as if summoned by the melons. When he saw Pine Gum Boy standing in his way, he said: "Uh, excuse me, could you please let me pass?"




When Pine Gum Boy neither answered nor stepped aside, Rabbit raised his voice: "EXCUSE ME! Will you please let me pass?"




When he got neither answer nor reaction, Rabbit lost his temper. He raised his right paw and struck Pine Gum Boy, only to find his paw stuck fast to the gum.

"Hey, let go of me!" shouted Rabbit. He pulled and pulled but couldn't set himself free.




"Let go or I'll hit you again," shouted Rabbit. When he couldn't get any reaction, he lifted his left paw and struck Pine Gum Boy a mighty blow. His left paw got stuck to the gum.




"Hey, enough, you rude fellow!" shouted Rabbit as he lifted his right foot to kick Pine Gum Boy. His right foot got stuck.

"Get away from me!" shouted Rabbit as he lifted his left foot to kick Pine Gum Boy. His left foot got stuck.




"This is not funny! Get out of here!" shouted Rabbit as he butted his head against Pine Gum Boy. His head got stuck.

He huffed and he puffed and he cried and he cursed, but he couldn't shake himself loose.




When the sun came up, Coyote found Rabbit still arguing and struggling with Pine Gum Boy.

"AHA! I've got you!" said Coyote to Rabbit. "You ate my melons, so now I'll eat you. It's only fair."



"I don't know what you're talking about," said Rabbit. "The moon hardly shone last night, I lost my way in the forest, and this -- ah, I can see him clearly now -- this Pine Gum Boy attacked me."

"Don't waste your breath," said Coyote. "Prepare to be eaten."



"Well, I don't need to prepare. I know I'm tasty. Except I'll taste all bitter now because I'm so sticky."

# READING FOR UNDERSTANDING

## Strategy 2. Predicting



Pause again for a moment.

How accurate was your previous prediction?

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What do you think is going to happen in the rest of the story?

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"I'm not stupid," said Coyote. "I'll wash off the gum first, before I eat you."

And so Coyote took Rabbit and Pine Gum Boy down to the river, where he scrubbed Rabbit clean.

"Now do you think I'm tasty enough for you?" asked Rabbit.

"I'll tell you in a second," said Coyote as he freed Rabbit from the last glob of pine gum. "Time to say goodbye, Rabbit."

"Goodbye," shouted Rabbit. And he leaped out of Coyote's hands and ran as fast as he could into the forest.



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