SMART™ Lesson
Predicting Outcomes

When we read fiction, we are often interested in what happens to the characters in the story. Sometimes, we can predict what will happen before we get to the end of the book. Being able to predict what will happen next can be helpful in understanding the story and making connections with the characters.

How to Predict Outcomes

There are several strategies we can use to predict what will happen next in a story:

1. **Look for clues** - The author often leaves clues throughout the story that can help the reader predict what will happen next. These clues can come in the form of foreshadowing, hints about characters' personalities, or details about the setting or time period of the story.
2. **Use prior knowledge** - Sometimes, our own experiences and knowledge can help us predict what will happen next in a story. For example, if we know that most superhero stories involve a battle between good and evil, we might predict that the hero will face a difficult challenge later in the story.
3. **Make inferences** - Making inferences means using the information we already have to draw conclusions about what might happen next. For example, if a character in a story is described as being very sick, we might infer that they will need medical attention later on in the story.

Practice Predicting Outcomes

Read the following paragraphs and use the strategies above to predict what will happen next:

Rachel had always loved going to the beach. She loved the feeling of the sand between her toes and the salty smell of the ocean air. Today, she was especially excited because she had just gotten a new swimsuit and couldn't wait to show it off. She walked along the shoreline, admiring the colorful shells that washed up on the sand. Suddenly, she heard a loud noise and turned to see a group of teenagers running towards her.

1. What clues can you find that might help predict what will happen next in the story?
2. What prior knowledge can you use to predict what will happen next?
3. What inferences can you make about what will happen next?

Jonas sat nervously in his chair, tapping his foot against the floor. The room was completely silent except for the ticking of the clock on the wall. Jonas had been waiting

for this moment for weeks, and he couldn't believe it was finally here. Suddenly, the door creaked open and a tall figure stepped into the room.

1. What clues can you find that might help predict what will happen next in the story?
2. What prior knowledge can you use to predict what will happen next?
3. What inferences can you make about what will happen next?