



## Interactive Readaloud

### Lesson: Charlie Anderson (Shared Reading with Questioning)

#### Asking Questions

Gail: I would really love to share a story with you, and it's called Charlie Anderson. Hmm... I'm wondering about the story...and what I want you to do right now is to take a moment to think about any connections you may have with the story that would be called Charlie Anderson or that has a picture like this on the front. Think first in your head. (Kids raise hands).

Whisper to your partner what connection that you're making.

(Children whisper to their partners).

Gail: OK - thank you. We know that when we start a book it's very important to start with connections. And you know, last week, we were talking about questions and really thinking about questions, and I love this story, cuz there's lot of questions that we can have. Now I want you to switch in your mind for a moment - we thought about some connections in yourself - for yourself.... Now I want you to think of some questions you might have. Just looking at this story, can you come up with any questions or connections, but think first. Think in your mind if you have any questions.

Gail: Now, whisper to your partner the question you have.

(Children whisper to their partners).

Gail: OK - thank you. Now, I'm going to write down some of these questions today, because we are going to crosscheck at the end of the story to see if some of these questions are answered. I don't know about you, but there's not a lot that this cover's telling me. Is it telling you a lot? Tell me one thing it's telling you.

Child: I wonder if the cat is going to chase the mouse.

Gail: OK. What do you think - where do you get that information about a cat chasing a mouse?

Child: Cuz there's a cat on the page.

Gail: And what happens to cats?

Child: They like mice.

Gail: They do a lot of times like mice. Let me write down: (writing on the board)

I wonder if the cat is going to chase the mouse?

Gail: OK. You did have a question. Another question - um - yes - Ben.

Ben: I wonder if the - um - cat's name is Charlie Anderson...

Gail: Ooh!

Ben: ... or his - um - or his guy who um - or his guy who owns him - his name is Charlie Anderson.

Gail: OK - so you have two questions. Is it going to be the cat's name, or is it going to be the owner's name. So I wonder...I wonder...could you tell me that again with both of those things in it?

Ben: I wonder if the cat's name is Charlie Anderson, or - um - the um- owner.

Gail: ... the cat's name is Charlie Anderson. (writes on board) or if the owner's name...

I wonder if the cat's name is Charlie Anderson or if the owner's name is Charlie Anderson?

Gail: Let's read it. Ready? See if you can read with me.

(They read the sentence aloud together).

Gail: With your fingers, show me how many different thoughts are really in that sentence.

(children raise fingers)

Gail: Megan, how many thoughts do you think are in that sentence?

Megan: Two.

Gail: And what two thoughts are they?

Megan: The owner and the cat.

Gail: The owner and the cat. And we put both of those things into one sentence and so we now really have a compound sentence. Ben, thank you for that idea.

Now, I'm wondering, though. I have a question now, Ben, and that is, where did you get your idea for this question?

Ben: From the cover, and looking at the cat, I was wondering if the cat was name was Charlie Anderson or maybe I put that together...put the human and the cat together. ... owner, and that maybe he might be Charlie Anderson.

Gail: So you looked at the picture, and also, you were connecting the words.

Ben: Yeah.

Gail: Yes, it's very important to connect both of those two together. OK. I'm gonna stop with those two questions. If you still have a good, good question, would you please whisper it to your partner so they can help you remember it. Whisper it to your partner. (children whisper to their partners).

Gail: OK, now - take your questions, and keep them in your mind - don't lose them - keep them in your mind...

Gail: OK, now - let's look at the story. We're ready to jump into the story. I'm gonna open up the first page. (opens book). What should we expect from the title page?

Children: More.

Gail: More what?

Child: Information.

Gail: More information, in maybe pictures and...

Children: (various answers)

Gail: But it could be the same picture- sometimes it is.

It isn't much more information, isn't it? But it is different. The only words we have on this title page are...

Children: Charlie Anderson.

Gail: Same words - different picture - not a lot of more information. But this is what I want you to do today, and that is: when you come to a word, Heather, that you - when you come to a part in the book you might have a question about, I want you to raise your hand and we're gonna add some more questions to our story - to our chart. And at the end, we're gonna see if our questions get answered. Because we're really looking at questions. Because we know questions can help us understand a story more deeply. Yes.

Child: Why isn't the author's name on it?

Gail: This is the cover page. Why isn't the author's name on there?

Danielle: Could it be on the next page?

Gail: Danielle?

Danielle: Could it be on the next page?

Gail: Well, let's check to see, and confirm and see if she's right.

But look what we have here. We have two pages... almost like two different title pages. This one - lookit. What do we have on this page now?

Child: the title.

Gail: And?

Child: The illustrator and by.

Gail: And by? And that's the author too. Does it give us more information:

Child: Uh huh.

Gail: Uh huh. I'm thinking...I'm thinking. And - Ben.

Ben: I think the cat is getting in trouble, and the cat's, in his mind, maybe he's thinking of Charlie and that's why maybe the cover is called.

Gail: Alright. I want you to think about those things again. Let's start our story. Let's enjoy the story together now. Here is our dedication page. Here is a story about Charlie Anderson. And I want to think about these questions. (reads book)

"One cold night, a cat walked out of the woods, up the steps, across the deck, and into a house where Elizabeth and Sarah lived."

Kids: Sarah!

Gail: Well, Sarah - did you live there?

Sarah: No.

Gail: No. Must be a different Sarah.

"He curled up next to their fireplace to get warm, he watched the 6:00 news on TV, he tasted their dinner and he tried out their beds." (Kids laugh)

Child: That's like the Three Little Bears.

Gail: Are you making a connection to Goldilocks and the Three Little Bears? I am too!

Child: Yeah, I have a book in the bear.

Gail: You have that book about the bear!

Child: Even those bears.

Gail: It can help me understand this book better, because now I'm wondering, "Aha. This cat must share that house kind of like Goldilocks did."

Kids: (various answers)

Gail: (reads)

"Well, he decided to stay, and the girls named him Charlie." (Only Charlie. Just Charlie.)  
"And every morning, Charlie disappeared into the woods again."

Child: Where are you? Where are you?

Gail: "Where are you?" They're saying, "Where are you?" Disappearing...

Child: I knew that they're looking out the door.

Gail: We're inferring they're looking out the door, and I think they're saying, "Where are you? And where are you?"

"Well, at night, he came back home, and Elizabeth brushed him clean and fed him dinner, and made a space for him at the foot of her bed. He liked Elizabeth's bed the most, and sometimes, he would wake up in the middle of the night and hear him purring in the dark." I can almost hear that.

"Sarah called him Baby and she dressed him up in doll's clothes." (kids laugh)

"And when it snowed, Elizabeth and Sarah's mother heated Charlie's food before he left for the woods. And then he grew fatter and fatter, and every day he purred louder and louder."

And you know, I have a question. Does anyone have a question right now about the story? Tegan, what question might you have?

Tegan: I don't have a question, but I have a connection. My cat does the same as Charlie does.

Gail: And what parts are the same? What do you mean by that?

Child: She purrs louder and louder.

Gail: So you must know how Sarah feels, then, in the story when she's purring. Oh, yes - Reena.

Reena: Probably they called him Charlie Anderson because that's probably their last name.

Gail: OK. So you're wondering. We're trying to answer this question, aren't you - to see whose - who - is it a girl or a person. But I'm - I'm asking for questions. Does anyone have a question at this point in our story? Danielle?

Child: How come the cat is getting fatter and fatter if it goes out the door and runs in the woods?

Gail: If he goes out and runs in the woods, why is he getting fatter and fatter? OK - I wonder why.

(writes on flipchart while reading question)

I wonder why the cat gets fatter afatter?

And especially, you added something. Woops - look at that. Let's read this and see what I did.

(They read the sentence together up to the typo. Children laugh because she did a typo.)

Gail: What should I put here?

Children: "and".

Gail: OK - that will make sense. (corrects flipchart). OK - we have to read it again...

(writes while they read it together)

I wonder why the cat gets fatter AND fatter when it goes out and runs?

Oh, thank you for that question. I wonder if we'll get that question answered. Megan has a question. Megan?

Megan: I wonder if...I want to know why it keeps purring louder and louder and louder.

Gail: I want to know why it keeps purring louder and louder (children interrupt)

Oh, we're answering those already.

(Gail writes, and they all say together)

I wonder why it purrs louder and louder.

Gail: OK. I wonder if we'll get that answered. You could answer it yourself - I wonder if we'll answer it in this story. OK.

Let's continue our story and see if there are any more questions.

Gail: "On weekends, the girls stayed with their father and stepmother in the city, and wanted to bring Charlie with them, but their mother said he would miss the woods. "Charlie's a country cat," she said. But then, one stormy night, Charlie didn't come home, and Elizabeth and Sarah stayed out on the deck, and they called and they called his name. But no Charlie. Where was he? Why wouldn't he come out of those woods and was he alright?"

Child: I hope so.

Child: Maybe he got eaten by a bear.

Child: Maybe he's still inside.

"All night long, Elizabeth listened to the rain beating down on the roof and the wind rattling the windows. Was he cold? Was he hurt? Where was Charlie?"

Child: I bet in the morning she's going to look for him.

Gail: Thinking, thinking, thinking. Thinking in your mind: where could Charlie be?

"Well, in the morning, Elizabeth and Sarah looked for him and they asked the lady down the road if she'd seen their cat and she said, "No." But she offered them cookies. But they were too worried to eat anything, even her chocolate chip cookies."

Scott: I LOVE chocolate chip cookies.

Gail: I know, but they were so worried, Scott, they couldn't even eat a cookie, they were so worried.

"They went to the new house on the other side of the woods. "Have you seen our cat?" they asked. "His name is Charlie. He's very fat and he's gray, and he has striped fur."

Gail: Stop for a minute. I'm going to ask you to check for understanding - what's happened so far? - with your partner. Please check for understanding with your partner (Kids whisper with partner).

Gail: Brandon, could you check for understanding for all of us? What's happened so far? (Kids whisper to their partners)

Brandon: They were so worried, they couldn't even eat a single cookie. Not even a single crumb.

Gail: They were so worried about the cat... Let's see what happens next.

(reads) "They went into the new house on the other side of the woods. "Have you seen our cat?" they asked. "His name is Charlie, he's very fat, and he's gray and he's striped." Yes. "Well, we have a cat that has gray striped fur", said the man. "But his name's not Charlie. His name is Anderson. He's upstairs asleep on our bed."

Child: That's really hers...Charlie...

Gail: I wonder if I have a question. Do you have a question in mind? A question - Reena?

Reena: I wonder if the cat was abused by the two girls and that's why he runned away.

Gail writes: So do you wonder if the cat ran away. I'm going to go like this...(writes it on flipchart)

I wonder if the cat ran away.

I wonder if the cat ran away. Ohh.

What else do you wonder, Megan?

Megan: I wonder if, when he runs away through the woods, he goes to their house.

Gail: What do you wonder, Laura?"

Laura: I wonder if the cat is theirs...

Gail: ... if it's their cat.

Laura: ...and the cat just runned away to their house.

Gail: OK, put your hands down and let's continue to listen.

Gail (to Lindsay): Lindsay, I wonder if you can think of a question, because I'm going to ask you next time for a question. or a connection to see if you can come up with one for us. OK, let's listen.

Gail reads:

"They heard a meow and down the stairs came a very fat cat with gray striped fur coming down the stairs. "Charlie!" Sarah and Elizabeth cried.

"No, that's Anderson", said the woman. "We've had him for 7 years. Right, Anderson?" He looked at her, and he began to purr.

"Oh- no, no - but this is Charlie!" said Sarah. He looked at her, and he purred louder.

"Is he ever here at night?" Elizabeth asked.

"Oh, no. Anderson is a hunter," said the man. "He prowls the woods at night."

"Oh, Charlie sleeps in my bed at night!" said Elizabeth. "He leaves for the woods after breakfast."

"No, Anderson comes home at breakfast time", said the woman. "He leaves right after dinner."

They all looked at the cat. He sat at their feet, very happy and very fat. They called him Charlie Anderson now."

Sometimes in bed at night, Elizabeth asks him, "Who do you love best, Charlie Anderson?" And she can hear him purring in the dark. Just like Elizabeth and Sarah, Charlie has two houses, and two beds, and two families who love him. He is a lucky cat."

Gail (to Lindsay): Lindsay, did you have a question about something in the story? Could you come up with one? (no answer) I'm going to ask if you can help us answer some of these questions then (pointing to flipchart). OK, Charlie Anderson. Wow. Let's go back.

Child: Ben was right.

Gail: What do you mean, Ben was right?

Child: He said either the cat is Charlie Anderson or the owner.

### Answering Questions

Gail: OK, let's see if we got these questions answered by the story. And Heather, you help me out here. The first one says - and you can read it with me - (they read it together)

I wonder if the cat is going to chase the mouse.

Gail: Did we get that answered in the story?

Kids: No!

Gail: We really didn't.

Megan: It wasn't part of the story.

Gail: Pardon me, Megan?

Megan: It wasn't really part of the story.

Gail: It really wasn't part of the story. Well, let's read the next one. Read it with me.

Child: Cross it out.

Gail: Should we cross it out because it wasn't part of the story? I'll put a little mark through there. It wasn't part of the story.

(Child says something)

OK - let's try this one. Eyes up here and let's read. (they read from flipchart)

I wonder if the cat's name is Charlie Anderson or if the owner's name is Charlie Anderson.

Child: Can I help you out?

Gail: Lindsay, did we get this answered?

Lindsay: Um Yes.

Gail: Yes... did we get all of it answered?

Lindsay: No.

Child: The owner wasn't named Charlie Anderson.

Gail: The owner wasn't. So we got the whole thing answered, didn't we, Heather?

Child: The only cat's name was because the girls named her Charlie and he came in through the woods and the other people named him Anderson and then they get to call him Charlie Anderson.

Gail: And so we got this answered, didn't we? I'm gonna put a big A, and I'm gonna continue the "A" and put a big star for "We did get this one answered in the story." (writes an "A" and a star next to question)

Gail: Let's read this one and see if it got answered in the story.

Lindsay, if you would do us a favor and put that away for now, that would be very helpful. Let's look at this.

It says (eyes up here) (they read together).

I wonder why the cat gets fatter and fatter when it goes out and runs.

Gail: Did we get this answered in the story?

Children: (various answers)

Gail: You said it did. How did it get answered?

Child: Cuz it had two homes and it ate at the other home.

Gail: So it ate where - John?

John: At the other home.

Gail: Just the other home?

Children: (various answers)

Gail: It ate at both homes!

Child: It got fatter and fatter every time it came back.

Gail: It ate in the morning, it ate at night - it ate all this food, and it got fatter and fatter, didn't he?

Gail: Did we get this answered?

Kids: Yes!

Gail: (writing on flipchart) Yes. A big "A" for "answered".

Gail And let's read the next one. It says (they all read the next question on flipchart):

I wonder why it purrs louder and louder.

Gail: Did we get that answered in the story?

Children: (various answers)

Child: It did not. We don't even know.

Gail: It did not get answered in the story but, Tegan, do you know the answer to the story. Why?

Tegan: Because it loves you more every day.

Gail: So when it loves you, it makes that noise.

Gail: But it did not get answered in the story, but she used her own brain to help us figure that out.

Tegan: And besides, it does it.

Gail: Yo ur cat does it, so you have a lot of information about that, don't you? Yes. Lindsay.

Lindsay: My friend...

Gail: Would you wait one second...Lindsay's turn...Her voice is soft and let's listen to her voice.

Lindsay: At my friend's house, um, they have two cats. There's a Siamese and a tabby cat...striped one... her name is Tigger. And it purrs.

Gail: And it purrs. And you're making that connection, cuz it does purr.

Gail: OK, let's do the last one. (they all read together);

I wonder if the cat ran away.

Child: No.

Gail: Did that get answered?

Kids: Yes!

Gail: It did get answered, and what's the answer to that, Danielle?

Danielle: No.

Gail: OK. Hang on to what your thought is. Think about that. It did get answered, but did it right away?

Kids: No.

Gail: It didn't right away. So it did get answered. So we can say "A" for...

Child: Did that one get answered? (referring to "purring" question)

Gail:...Answered. Oh.

(Gail writes "A" for "Answered" next to question on flipchart)

Gail: This did not get answered, but Tigan knew the answer, so we used her brain to help us out, but it did not get answered in the story. So I'll just put... leave it. Oh, should I put a mark through it? Cuz it didn't get answered.

Children: Yeah.

Gail: So it didn't get answered.

Gail: Let's look back. Hands down for just a moment.

Let's just finish up, and let's look at what we can do with asking questions. If we ask a question about a story, we can get a lot of answers - it helps us understand the story more completely. And look at how many of our questions got answered in our story today.

Kid: Three.

Gail: We got three questions, and we also enjoyed the story about Charlie Anderson. So next time, every single time that you read a story, you ask yourself, "What connections can I make?" and "What questions I have when I'm reading the story?"