

Lesson 8: Picture Study • Action Story**FIRST BOOK IN LANGUAGE****PART 1.1 READ AND DISCUSS • PICTURE OBSERVATION & STORY QUESTIONS****PICTURE STUDY****The Tree, Cat & Dog***chases • flees up tree*

- What objects do you see in this picture?
- Did a cat see a rat?
- Did she run after it?
- Did she catch the rat?
- Did she bite it?

**The Boy & The Rat***watches • hides in grass*

- Did a dog see the cat?
- Did he bark at her?
- Did the cat run away?
- Did the dog run after her?
- Did the dog catch the cat?

PART 1.2 Memorize: A word that asserts something, or that tells what any-thing does, is an action-word.**PART 2.1 PRACTICE WORK — COMPLETE THE LIVING STORY:**

Fill the blanks with fitting action-words and name-words

1. A cat _____ a _____ .

2. She _____ after _____ .

3. She _____ the _____ .

4. She _____ it.

5. A dog _____ the _____ .

6. He _____ at _____ .

7. The _____ _____ away.

8. The dog _____ after _____ .

9. He _____ not _____ the cat.

PART 2.2**Oral Narration:**Read your complete story aloud with feeling! Tell what happened next to the cat up the tree! *Picture Narration • 1880s Method*

PEDAGOGICAL RATIONALE (THE LIVING ART OF PICTURE NARRATION)

Lesson VIII unites sensory observation and dramatic storytelling. The child examines a single rich picture capturing dramatic action in progress: the tree, the escaping cat, the bounding dog, the crouching rat, and the watchful boy. Through 10 guided questions, the child reconstructs the chronological sequence of events. In the Practice Work, the child supplies both action-words (past-tense verbs) and name-words/pronouns to write their very first multi-sentence story.

PART 2.1 • 9-SENTENCE STORY SOLUTION KEY

#	Textbook Practice Frame	Accepted Model Solution	Parts of Speech & Grammar Focus
1.	A cat [] a [].	A cat saw a rat.	saw (action-word) • rat (name-word)
2.	She [] after [].	She ran after it.	ran (action-word) • it (pronoun for rat)
3.	She [] the [].	She caught the rat.	caught (action-word) • rat (name-word)
4.	She [] it.	She bit it.	bit (action-word, past tense)
5.	A dog [] the [].	A dog saw the cat.	saw (action-word) • cat (name-word)
6.	He [] at [].	He barked at her.	barked (action-word) • her (pronoun for cat)
7.	The [] [] away.	The cat ran away.	cat (name-word) • ran (action-word)
8.	The dog [] after [].	The dog ran after her.	ran (action-word) • her (pronoun for cat)
9.	He [] not [] the cat.	He did not catch the cat.	did (helping verb) • catch (base action-word)

PART 1.1 • 10 PICTURE OBSERVATION QUESTIONS DIALOGUE GUIDE

Narrative Phase	Socratic Inquiries from Textbook	Expected Child Oral Response
Scene Overview	"What objects do you see in this picture?"	"I see a big tree, a boy in a cap, a black dog running, a cat near the tree, and a rat in the grass."
Phase 1: Cat & Rat	"Did a cat see a rat? Did she run after it? Did she catch the rat? Did she bite it?"	"Yes, the cat saw the rat, chased it through the meadow, caught it, and bit it."
Phase 2: Dog & Cat	"Did a dog see the cat? Did he bark at her? Did the cat run away? Did the dog run after her? Did the dog catch the cat?"	"The dog saw the cat and barked loudly! The cat ran away up the tree, and the dog did not catch her."

CHARLOTTE MASON TEACHING STRATEGY

- Picture Study:** Give the child 2 minutes to look in quiet wonder before asking questions. Notice details (the boy's posture, the flying paws).
- Past-Tense Discovery:** Ask: "Did it happen right now, or just a moment ago?" Guide the child to use saw instead of see, ran instead of run.
- Living Oral Narration:** Encourage the child to recite the whole 9-sentence story without looking at the text.

ASSESSMENT RUBRIC (CCSS W.K.3 • NARRATIVE WRITING)

- Level 4 Exemplary:** Fills all 9 blanks with exact past-tense verbs and fitting nouns; recites the complete narrative sequence with lively expression.
- Level 3 Proficient:** Completes 7–9 sentences accurately; narrative sequence understood; minor tense correction upon re-reading.
- Level 2 Developing:** Understands the story orally; needs guidance to write past-tense forms (*saw*, *caught*, *did not catch*).
- Level 1 Beginning:** Confuses characters in the chase; benefits from dramatic acting of the boy, dog, cat, and rat.