

# Narrative Story Retell Elicitation Protocol (DDS)

- Materials
  - Recording device
  - Copy of the book, *Doctor De Soto* (Steig, 1982)
  - Quiet location free of distractions with a table and two chairs

- Preparation

**Check the recorder for loudness levels. Record your name, date, student's identifier, birthdate, age, and grade.**

- Directions

Use the book that does not have the text covered. Seat the student next to you, show the book to the student, and say *"I am helping your teacher find out how you tell stories. First, I will read this story to you while you follow along. Then I'm going to ask you to tell the story using your own words."*

Read the story. Make sure the child is looking at the book.

*After reading the story, prepare the recorder to record the student's sample. Give the student the copy of the book which has the text covered and say "Now I would like you to tell the story. Notice that the words are covered up. That's because I want you to use your own words to tell the story."*

*Turn to the first page with pictures and start recording. Say "Do the best that you can. Now you tell me the story."*

## **Examiner's role during the retell**

During the retell, move slightly away from the student, turning so that eye contact is easy. The student should be in charge of page turning during the retell but provide assistance if the student has trouble turning pages, or starts skipping too many pages. Moving away from the student promotes language and minimizes pointing.

Do not give specific cues to the student during the task. You can point to the book to focus attention or say, *"Tell me more," "Keep going," "You are doing a great job," "And then..."* if the student stops talking before the story is finished. You may also use nonverbal cues such as head nodding and smiling to promote continued talking. If the student is unable to start the task, use the prompt *"One day...."* Using overly-specific questions or providing too much information to the student compromises the process of capturing the student's true language and

specific questions or providing too much information to the student compromises the process of capturing the student’s true language and ability level. Open-ended prompts *do not* provide the student with answers or vocabulary. But they *do* encourage the student to try or they let the student know it is ok to move on if needed. Avoid asking the “wh” questions, who?, what?, when?, where? as these often lead to obvious and limited responses/answers.

### **Acknowledgements**

The California samples are the result of collaboration with clinicians from two public school districts in San Diego County; San Diego City Schools and Cajon Valley Union Schools. The Wisconsin samples are the result of collaboration with clinicians from the Madison Metropolitan School District and the following school districts in the Milwaukee area: Brown Deer, Fox Point-Bayside, Shorewood, Waukesha, Wauwatosa, and West Allis-West Milwaukee. All samples were collected by clinicians in these school districts and were transcribed and coded by the University of Wisconsin staff and students. This project was funded in part by SALT Software, LLC.

### **Optional Comprehension Questions**

Following the student’s retell, you have the option of evaluating his/her understanding of the story by asking a series of comprehension questions. Refer to the document entitled “Comprehension Questions for SALT Narrative Story Retells” for details. Please note that the SALT Narrative Story Retell database samples were not scored for comprehension.

## ***Doctor De Soto***

**By Steig**

### **Page Script**

- 1** Doctor De Soto, the dentist, did very good work, so he had no end of patients. Those close to his own size—moles, chipmunks, et cetera—sat in the regular dentist’s chair. Larger animals sat on the floor, while Doctor De Soto stood on a ladder.
  
- 2-3** For extra-large animals, he had a special room. There, Doctor De Soto was hoisted up to the patient’s mouth by his assistant, who also happened to be his wife.
  
- 4** Doctor De Soto was especially popular with the big animals. He was able to work inside their mouths, wearing rubbers to keep his feet dry; and his fingers were so delicate, and his drill so dainty, they could hardly feel any pain.
  
- 5** Being a mouse, he refused to treat animals dangerous to mice, and it said so on his sign. When the doorbell rang, he and his wife would look

- 5 Being a mouse, he refused to treat animals dangerous to mice, and it said so on his sign. When the doorbell rang, he and his wife would look out the window. They wouldn't admit even the most timid-looking cat.
- 6 One day, when they looked out, they saw a well-dressed fox with a flannel bandage around his jaw.
- 7 "I cannot treat you, sir!" Doctor De Soto shouted. "Sir! Haven't you read my sign?"
- 8 "Please!" the fox wailed. "Have mercy, I'm suffering!" And he wept to bitterly it was painful to see.
- 9 "Just a moment," said Doctor De Soto. "That poor fox," he whispered to his wife. "What shall we do?"  
"Let's risk it," said Mrs. De Soto. She pressed the buzzer and let the fox in.
- 10 He was up the stairs in a flash. "Bless your little hearts," he cried, falling to his knees. "I beg you, do something! My tooth is killing me."
- 11 "Sit on the floor, sir," said Doctor De Soto, "and remove the bandage, please."
- 12 Doctor De Soto climbed up the ladder and bravely entered the fox's mouth. "Ooo-wow!" he gasped. The fox had a rotten bicuspid and unusually bad breath. "This tooth will have to come out," Doctor De Soto announced. "But we can make you a new one."
- 13 "Just stop the pain," whimpered the fox, wiping some tears away. Despite his misery, he realized he had a tasty little morsel in his mouth, and his jaw began to quiver. "Keep open!" yelled Doctor De Soto. "Wide open!" yelled his wife.
- 14 "I'm giving you gas now," said Doctor De Soto. "You won't feel a thing when I yank that tooth." Soon the fox was in dreamland. "M-m-m yummy," he mumbled. "How I love them raw... with just a pinch of salt, and a... dry... white wine."
- 15 They could guess what he was dreaming about. Mrs. De Soto handed her husband a pole to keep the fox's mouth open.
- 16 Doctor De Soto fastened the extractor to the bad tooth. Then he and his wife began turning the winch. Finally, with a sucking sound, the tooth popped out and hung swaying in the air.
- 17 "I'm bleeding!" the fox yelped when he came to. Doctor De Soto ran up the ladder and stuffed some gauze in the hole. "The worst is over," he said. "I'll have your new tooth ready tomorrow. Be here at eleven sharp."  
The fox, still woozy, said goodbye and left. On his way home, he wondered if it would be shabby of him to eat the De Sotos when the job was done.
- 18 After office hours, Mrs. De Soto molded a tooth of pure gold and polished it, "Raw with salt, indeed," muttered Doctor De Soto. "How foolish to trust a fox!"

polished it, “Raw with salt, indeed,” muttered Doctor De Soto. “How foolish to trust a fox!”

“He didn’t know what he was saying,” said Mrs. De Soto. “Why should he harm us? We’re helping him.”

“Because he’s a fox!” said Doctor De Soto. “They’re wicked, wicked, wicked creatures.”

**19** That night the De Sotos lay awake worrying. “Should we let him in tomorrow?” Mrs. De Soto wondered. “Once I start a job,” said the dentist firmly, “I finish it. My father was the same way.”

“But we must do something to protect ourselves,” said his wife. They talked and talked until they formed a plan. “I think it will work,” said Doctor De Soto. A minute later he was snoring.

**20** The next morning, promptly at eleven, a very cheerful fox turned up. He was not feeling a particle of pain.

**21** When Doctor De Soto got into his mouth, he snapped it shut for a moment, then opened wide and laughed. “Just a joke!” he chortled. “Be serious,” said the dentist sharply. “We have work to do.” His wife was lugging the heavy tooth up the ladder.

**22** “Oh, I love it!” exclaimed the fox. “It’s just beautiful.” Doctor De Soto set the gold tooth in its socket and hooked it up to the teeth on both sides. The fox caressed the new tooth with his tongue. “My, it feels good,” he thought. “I really shouldn’t eat them. On the other hand, how can I resist?”

**23** “We’re not finished,” said Doctor De Soto, holding up a large jug. “I have here a remarkable preparation developed only recently by my wife and me. With just one application, you can be rid of toothaches forever. How would you like to be the first one to receive this unique treatment?”

**24** “I certainly would!” the fox declared. “I’d be honored.” He hated any kind of personal pain.

“You will never have to see us again,” said Doctor De Soto. “No one will ever see you again,” said the fox to himself. He had definitely made up his mind to eat them—with the help of his brand-new tooth.

**25** Doctor De Soto stepped into the fox’s mouth with a bucket of secret formula and proceed to paint each tooth. He hummed as he worked. Mrs. De Soto stood by on the ladder, pointing out spots he had missed. The fox looked very happy.

**26** When the dentist was done, he stepped out. “Now close your jaws tight,” he said, “and keep them closed for a full minute.” The fox did as he was told. Then he tried to open his mouth—but his teeth were stuck together!

“Ah excuse me, I should have mentioned,” said Doctor De Soto, “you won’t be able to open your mouth for a day or two. The secret formula must first permeate the dentine. But don’t worry. No pain ever again!”

**27** The fox was stunned. He stared at Doctor De Soto, then at his wife.

must first permeate the dentine. But don't worry. No pain ever again!"

- 27** The fox was stunned. He stared at Doctor De Soto, then at his wife. They smiled and waited. All he could do was say, "Fank oo berry mush" through his clenched teeth, and get up and leave. He tried to do so with dignity.
- 28** Then he stumbled down the stairs in a daze. Doctor De Soto and his assistant had outfoxed the fox. They kissed each other and took the rest of the day off.