

Module: Using Prior Knowledge to Read Literature

Name: _____ Date: _____

I Know What Will Happen — Or Do I?

Authors who write short stories often try to fool you in a good way. They use a title and start the story to make you think a certain way, then they surprise you. This can make short stories a lot of fun to read.

Find a book of short stories. (Your teacher or a librarian can help you.)

Choose a short story with an interesting title. Copy the title onto the worksheet. Don't read the whole story yet, just the first paragraph or the first page. Then close the book.

Now think of all the ideas you have about the story. What do you think it will be about? Will it be happy or sad? Do you have any clues? Write your ideas on the worksheet. Take some time to think of all your ideas. You can do this with a partner and think of ideas together.

When you have written all your ideas about the story, it's time to read. Read the whole story. Does the author surprise you? What are the surprises? What turns out the way you predicted it would?

Ideas before Reading	What Surprises Did You Find?