

The Messy Magpie: Activity Plan 2

Reading Skill:

1a. Draw on knowledge of vocabulary to understand texts.

I can explain the meaning of words used in the story.

Vocabulary and Key Phrases:

Fiction, magpie, Morris, beauty, wilting, animals, flowers, mess, stream, muddy, hue, rubbish, damaged, display, dismay, regret, guilt, vowed, clue, environment.

Prior Learning: Children will have read up to the end of page 10 (to the point where Morris' collections has spread all over the forest.)

Reading Task: Read from page 11 to the end of page 16 (where Morris hunts around for a clue to help him decide what to do).

Reading Questions

p.11 What does the author mean when they say that Morris is 'admiring the beauty of all he could see'?

p.11 Why are the plants 'dying and struggling to grow'?

p.12 What does the word 'wilting' tell you about what the flowers look like?

p.12 Can you think of another way of saying that the animals are in 'distress'?

p.13 Can you read around the word 'hue' to work out what it might mean?

p.13 Why is the water not flowing as quickly as usual?

p.14 What phrase tells you that Morris did not deliberately damage

the environment around him?

p.14 Can you make up a sentence with the word 'damaged' in it?

p.15 Can you find a word or phrase which tells us that Morris feels sorry for what he has done?

p.15 What word tells you that Morris loved his collection of objects?

p.16 Can you suggest another way of saying, 'He vowed to himself he would put it all right'?

Deeper Reading:

p.12 Why do you think the author repeats the word 'not' in the top two lines? What effect does this have?

Related Activities

Punctuation and Grammar: Children complete the [Capital Letters Activity Sheet](#).

Challenge! Children write about other things that one of the animals might have seen in the messy forest, using as many capital letters as they can.

Phonics: Children play [The Long /oo/ Sound Nest Game](#).

Challenge! Children write their own sentences containing words with the long /oo/ sound.



Comprehension: Children complete the [Australian Magpie Comprehension Activity](#).

Challenge! Children use the text to make up their own questions for a friend to answer.



Vocabulary: Children complete the [Use a Different Word Activity Sheet](#).

Challenge! Children use three of the words to write their own sentence.

Advertise: Children read the [Big Forest Clear-Up Activity Sheet](#) and then make their own poster using plain paper or sugar paper and some coloured pens/pencils.

Challenge! Children add a persuasive sentence to their poster, using interesting adjectives to sell the event.

Compare: Children complete the [Changing How He Sees Things Activity Sheet](#).

Challenge! Can children describe how Morris is feeling without using the words 'sad' or 'upset'? They edit their letter or write some new sentences on a whiteboard.