How to Skin a Bear: Activity Plan 1

Reading Skill:	**Vocabulary and Key Phrases:**
2e. Predict what might happen from details stated and implied.	Fiction, cover, blurb, contents page, title page, plucking, tunic, tribe, elders, bows, hunting, guts, tanning, deerskin, Bee, Dog, Stone Age.
To predict what a story might be about and what might happen next.	

Prior Learning: New text.

Reading Task:

Reading Questions

Front Cover

Do you think this book is fiction or non-fiction? How do you know?

- Example answer: I think this is a fiction book because the cover shows an image of a bear that does not look as realistic as I would expect to see in a non-fiction book. There is a character sitting on the floor and I think this is a story about her and a bear. I wasn't sure at first, because the title sounds like an instruction book but the image on the front of the bear sneaking up on the girl makes me think this is a story.

Look at the title and the front cover. Can you predict what this book is going to be about?

- Example answer: I think from what I can see of the clothing that the character is wearing, along with the stone structure I can see in the background, that this book is set during Stone Age times. As the front cover shows a scary-looking bear approaching the girl with saliva dripping from his mouth and angry eyes, I think that there will be some danger in this story. The title makes me think that in the story the main character or characters might learn how to skin a bear.

Blurb

From reading the blurb, can you name some of the characters that will appear in this story? What do you know about these characters after reading the blurb?

- Example answer: The blurb mentions the characters of Bee and Dog. Bee is the youngest member of a Stone Age tribe. She is female. She is envious of the other members of the tribe who get to hunt, skin animals and perform rituals. Dog is her dog and they face danger together when they get lost in a storm.

By reading around the word 'omen' to help you understand the meaning, can you suggest another word or phrase that could be used instead of 'omen'?

- Example answer: The word 'warning' or 'prophecy' could be used instead.

Contents Page

Look at the chapter names on the contents page. What can you predict about events in this story by looking at these chapter names?

- Example answer: I think someone makes a mistake in Chapter 3. The name of Chapter 4 makes me think that they find something delicious to eat. The title of Chapter 7 makes me think that Bee comes up with a plan to help her get home and the last two chapter names make me think that she kills and skins a bear.

Chapter 1

p. 1 Who is the 'I' in the story? Explain how you know this.

- Example answer: The 'I' in the story is Bee, a young girl in a Stone Age tribe. I worked this out because the blurb tells us that this book is about her and Dad calls the 'I' in the story 'Bee' on page 1.

p. 1 How do you predict that Bee will respond when her dad says to her that plucking feathers is her job? Explain why you think this.

- Example answer: I think that she will pull a face to show that she is not happy or protest that she wishes it wasn't her job. I think this because she has already said that she hates feathers. She is gritting her teeth which makes me think that she feels angry or grumpy.

p. 2 What does Bee think is unfair about her situation?

- She hates being the youngest in the tribe and having to do the boring job of plucking feathers when she sees those around her doing more exciting jobs like hunting.

p. 2 How do you predict Bee will react to Dad's singing? Why do you think this?

- Example answer: I think him singing and being so cheerful will make her feel more irritated when she is annoyed in the first place.

p. 3 Where does Bee's tribe live?

- The tribe travel from place to place, setting up camp as they go and carrying all their belongings with them.

Does the blurb help you to predict if this will be the sort of book that you will enjoy? Explain your answer, quoting from the blurb.

- Example answer: The blurb makes me predict that this will be an exciting book with lots of adventure so yes, this would be my kind of book. The word 'omen' has intrigued me and I want to know what the 'great danger' mentioned is all about. The part where it says 'if she ever hopes to see her tribe again...' makes me think the book has lots of suspense and I like books like that. I want to find out if she will find her tribe again after she gets lost.

p. 3 Based on what you know about this particular story, or about how authors develop stories in general, what do you predict will happen in the story after the end of p. 3?

- Example answer: I think that more characters might be introduced as the blurb and text indicate that she lived with a tribe. I also think that some sort of problem will be introduced.

Related Activities

Punctuation and Grammar: Children complete the **Inverted Commas Activity Sheet**.

Challenge! Children imagine that Dog can talk and write a dialogue between him and Bee, applying the rules for writing inverted commas.

Vocabulary: Children complete the **Synonyms Activity Sheet**.

Challenge! Children make changes to the blurb, changing words of their own choice to synonyms.

Comprehension: Children complete the **Finding Out about Characters Activity Sheet**.

Challenge! Children think of five words beginning with 's' which could be used to describe Dad.

Play: Children play the **Prefixes Game** in pairs.

Challenge! Children think of more complex words and put the words they have said into sentences.

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Describe: Children complete the **Describing the Appearance of a Character Activity Sheet**.

Challenge! Children look back over their description and add in more ambitious words, perhaps using a thesaurus to help with this. ✓

Find: Children complete the **Dis- and Mis- Words Activity Sheet**.

Challenge! Children write a sentence using three mis- or dis- words.