

How to Skin a Bear: Activity Plan 2

Reading Skill:

2b. Retrieve and record information/ identify key details from fiction and non-fiction.

To retrieve information from a fiction text.

Vocabulary and Key Phrases:

Fiction, tribe, elders, Bee, Dog, Stone Age, ceremonies, navigate, shelter, Achoo, omen, ancestors, weathered, auroch, the Ritual, consolingly, courage.

Prior Learning: Children will have examined and read the cover, blurb and up to the end of p. 3 (...to sing happily).

Reading Task: Use the Twinkl Originals Story [_____](#). Read from the top of p. 4 to the end of Chapter 1.

Reading Questions

p. 4 Who is in charge of the tribe?

- Bent Tree is the tribe's chief.

p. 4 What is the name of Bee's dad's sister's man?

- Breath of the Vulture.

p. 4 Can you tell me two facts about Tumbling Pebble?

- He is Vulture's brother. He makes shelters by weaving sticks and furs.

p. 4 Do you think that Bee likes Snore of the Rat? Explain your answer.

- Example answer: I don't think she likes Snore of the Rat. She seems resentful that he is allowed to navigate and he is only two summers older than her. She describes the way he speaks as him 'yammering' which makes me think she finds it annoying and she says that his voice 'sounds like a strangled goose'.

p. 5 Why is Bee disappointed with Bent Tree?

- Bee feels that Bent Tree should not have let Rat get away with his bad behaviour. Bee thinks Bent Tree should have hit him with her walking staff.

p. 6 How do the gathered tribe react when they see the red sun? Look in the text to find out a way a tribe member responded and act it out now.

- Example answer: Children might point and stare, cover their eyes, wail and moan or sit with their eyes closed like Bent Tree.

p. 7 What does Bee find funny in the Ritual?

- She thinks Bent Tree looks funny wearing the mask. She thinks that it looks as if the lion mask is eating her face.

p. 7-8 What information can you gather from the text about Glinting Fang?

- Example answer: Glinting Fang killed a cave lion with one swipe of her axe. She was fierce, strong and her actions saved the tribe. She is remembered in a song. She lived in the time of the Long Frost and has been remembered by the tribe since then.

p. 9 What verb does the author use to describe the way that Rat moves as he passes Bee?

- The word used is 'minces'. Teacher Note - The verb 'to mince' means to walk with very small and quick steps. Its use in this story is an example of its use in a non-offensive context and helps to normalise the use of the word when referring to any and all people, rather than recognising its connection to any stereotypes.

p. 9-10 Name three sections of the Ritual that Bent Tree orders the tribe to perform.

- The Dance of the Druppity Drops. The Song of the Swishing Stream. The Procession of Shimmering Sunbeams.

p. 8-10 Why do Bee and Dog perform their own rituals instead?

- Bee is too young to join in with the Ritual.

Deeper Reading

p. 5 'Breath of the Vulture is a very young man.' True or false? Explain why you think this.

- Example answer: I think this statement is not true. I think this because it says that his face is 'weathered'. Weathered means worn away over time by the effects of the weather so it is unlikely that Breath of the Vulture is very young.

p. 7 Why does Bent Tree say that the tribe will not ignore the omen?

- Example answer: She says that they will not ignore the omen because people who lived before made the mistake of ignoring omens and they then had to live through an Ice Age.

p. 8 Why does Dog lick Bee's hand 'consolingly'?

- Example answer: He wants to console her (make her feel better) because he thinks she is feeling like she isn't good enough in comparison to Glinting Fang. Also, her dad has just told her off for making fun of the lion's skull so he could be consoling her about that.

Related Activities

Punctuation and Grammar: Children complete the [Subordinate Clauses Activity Sheet](#).

Challenge! Children write their own sentences including subordinate clauses about 'How to Skin a Bear'.

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

Challenge! Children decide who is their favourite character in the book so far and explain why using evidence from the text.

Sort: Children complete the [Changing Adjectives to Adverbs Activity Sheet](#).

Challenge! Children think of some adverbs that have not been used on the worksheet and use them to write their own sentences about Bee.



Vocabulary: Children complete the [Describing the Sun Activity Sheet](#).

Challenge! Children use similes to write some descriptive sentences about Dog.

Write: Children complete the [Unenjoyable Jobs Activity Sheet](#) in pairs.

Challenge! Children write a response to Bee's persuasive letter.



Digital: Children work in a group to perform the Ritual. They read from 'All dressed up' on p. 9 to the end of Chapter 1 and act out what happens in the Ritual and in Bee and Dog's own ritual. They should make sure their actions match how events are described in the text. They then make a video recording of the drama.

Challenge! Children work together as a group to create, record and perform their own Stone Age ritual.