

Comprehension

Part A

Find the answers to the questions in Chapter 1 of 'How to Skin a Bear'.

1. Match up the names of the characters to their descriptions by drawing a line between the columns. (Find the answers on p. 4)

Bee	makes shelters
Breath of the Vulture	navigates
Knotted Mane	gathers berries
Tumbling Pebble	plucks duck feathers
Bent Tree	builds the fire
Snore of the Rat	makes musical instruments

2. Write down another fact (not about his job) about Snore of the Rat from p. 4.

3. List three things that the text tells you about what Breath of the Vulture looks like. (p. 5)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. What is Bee's dad's full name? (p. 5)

5. Why does Bee's dad not find Bee's joke about the ritual mask funny? (p. 7-8)

6. What is Vulture's flute made from? (p. 9)

7. How does Bee calm Dog down? (p. 10)

8. Would you like to have lived in a Stone Age tribe? Why/why not?

Part B

Find the answers to the questions in Chapter 1 of 'How to Skin a Bear'.

1. Why is Bee 'fuming' as she glares around at the rest of the tribe? (p. 4)

2. Who is Bee's aunt?

3. What words can you find on p. 4 which mean the same or nearly the same as the following words/phrases?

1. collect _____

2. build _____

3. droning on _____

4. Why does Bee whack Rat with a plucked duck? (p. 5)

5. Even if you do not know what an aurochs is, what three things can you work out about aurochs by reading the text? (p. 5)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

6. Do you think Dad is very physically fit? Give reasons for your answer.

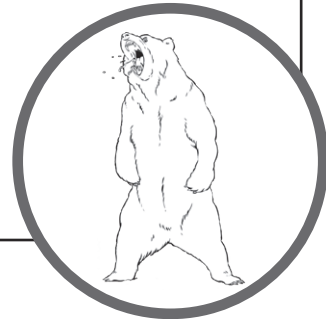
7. 'Bent Tree is an old woman.' Do you think this statement is true or false? Find all the evidence you can in Chapter 1 to provide evidence for your answer.

8. Which words or phrases tell the reader that Rat's clothing for the Ritual are not a tight fit?

9. Which simile describes how the tribe members look as they freeze at the end of their ritual?

★ ★
★ **Challenge Task** ★

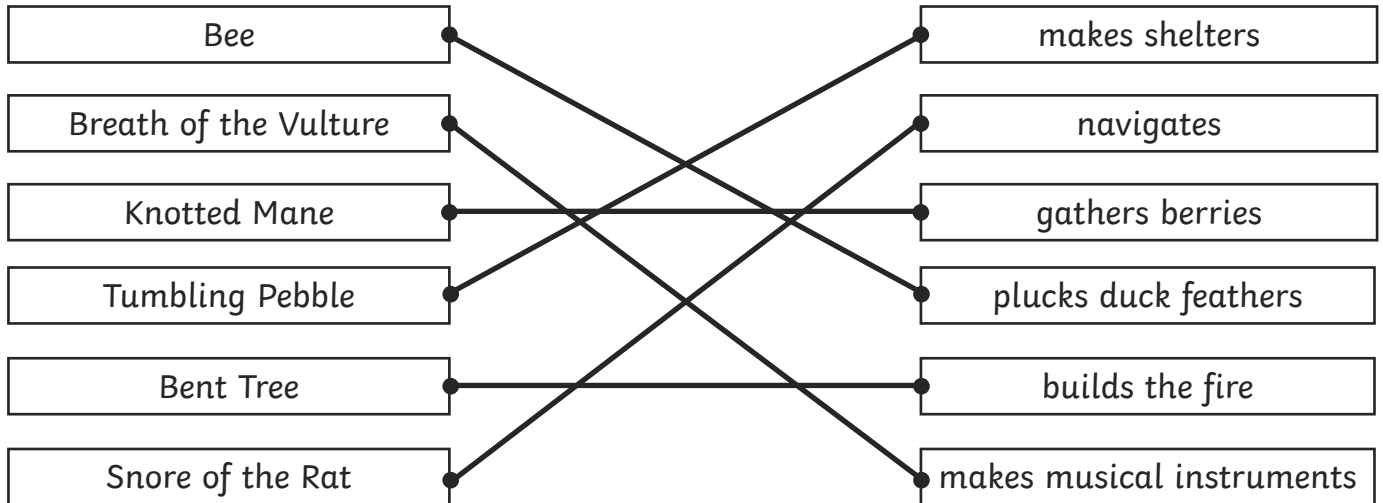
Who is your favourite character in the book so far? Explain why using evidence from the text.



Comprehension Answers

Part A

1. Match up the names of the characters to their descriptions by drawing a line between the columns. (Find the answers on p. 4)



2. Write down another fact (not about his job) about Snore of the Rat from p. 4.
Snore of the Rat is two summers older than Bee. Bee thinks his voice sounds like a strangled goose.
3. List three things that the text tells you about what Breath of the Vulture looks like. (p. 5)
Possible answers: Vulture is big/has bulging muscles. He has a bent nose. He has bristling eyebrows. He has thick, furry chest hair. He has a weathered face. He has a panicked expression on his face and looks scared.
4. What is Bee's dad's full name? (p. 5)
Bee's dad's full name is Sneeze of the Aurochs.
5. Why does Bee's dad not find Bee's joke about the ritual mask funny? (p. 7-8)
Bee's dad does not find Bee's joke about the ritual mask funny because he believes the mask is too special to joke about because it has been passed down in their tribe since the Long Frost and it belonged to one of the last lions.
6. What is Vulture's flute made from? (p. 9)
Vulture's flute is made from bird bone.
7. How does Bee calm Dog down? (p. 10)
Bee scratches Dog's chin to calm him down.
8. Would you like to have lived in a Stone Age tribe? Why/why not?
Example answer: I would not like to have lived in a Stone Age tribe as I don't like the sound of any of the jobs I could do - especially not making things from animal guts.

Part B

Find the answers to the questions in Chapter 1 of 'How to Skin a Bear'.

1. Why is Bee 'fuming' as she glares around at the rest of the tribe? (p. 4)
Bee is fuming because she hates plucking feathers and everyone else has more interesting jobs to do than her.
2. Who is Bee's aunt?
Bee's aunt is Knotted Mane.
3. What words can you find on p. 4 which mean the same or nearly the same as the following words/phrases?
 1. collect *gather*
 2. build *construct*
 3. droning on *yammering*
4. Why does Bee whack Rat with a plucked duck? (p. 5)
Bee whacks Rat with a duck because he nearly steps on her.
5. Even if you do not know what an aurochs is, what three things can you work out about aurochs by reading the text? (p. 5)
 1. *Aurochs are big.*
 2. *Aurochs look fierce.*
 3. *Aurochs have horns.*
6. Do you think Dad is very physically fit? Give reasons for your answer.
Example answer: I think Dad is not very fit because he 'lopes behind' when they run. Also, the fact that his tunic will not go all the way around his belly shows that he is fat.
7. 'Bent Tree is an old woman.' Do you think this statement is true or false? Find all the evidence you can in Chapter 1 to provide evidence for your answer.
Example answer: Bent Tree is an old woman because it says on p. 7 that she has 'crinkly eyes' and it says 'Bent Tree is so old that her voice crackles'.
8. Which words or phrases tell the reader that Rat's clothing for the Ritual are not a tight fit?
We know that Rat's clothes are not a tight fit because it says he is 'almost swamped' by his horse pelt and that his mask 'comes down over his eyes'.

9. Which simile describes how the tribe members look as they freeze at the end of their ritual?
The tribe members are described as being 'like fearsome monsters'.

★ ★
★ Challenge Task ★

Who is your favourite character in the book so far? Explain why using evidence from the text.

Example answer: My favourite character so far is Bent Tree. I like her because I find it fascinating how she is so calm and wise. While the others point, stare, wail or moan at the red sky, she 'sits with her eyes closed'. She is interesting because she spends so much time quietly thinking. The text says that she sits by the fire all day with her eyes closed.