

How to Skin a Bear: Activity Plan 6

Reading Skill:

2a. Give/explain the meaning of words in context.

To discuss the meanings of words in the texts I read.

Vocabulary and Key Phrases:

Pig Lick River, deserted, encouragingly, hand axe, stealthily, bear, desperately, lure, unwary, malice, indignantly, deflate, guffaws, slew, wince, billowing cloud, pelt.

Prior Learning: Children will have read up to the end of Chapter 5

Reading Task: Read Chapter 6 and up to the skull on p. 56 of Chapter 7 with the teacher. Teacher Note: All children should read the remainder of Chapter 7 and Chapter 8 as an independent task.

Reading Questions

Chapter 6

p. 44 Which sentence on this page tells you that Bee is feeling very hungry?

- 'I would give anything to suck the marrow from a pig bone right now.'

p. 44-45 What do you think Bee plans to do when she sees a pig, and which words tell you this?

- She will kill a pig for food. The words that tell me this are 'whack, hack, bone broth!'

p. 45 Dog looks at Bee 'encouragingly'. What do you think he is encouraging her to do?

- He is encouraging her to come into the river.

p. 47 In the text, it says, 'I would watch over his shoulder and try to mimic what he did'. Can you give a word that means the same as 'mimic'?

- Example answer: 'Copy'.

p. 48 Which words or phrases on this page make you think that Bee is being cautious?

- Example answer: Bee is whispering. It says that she leads Dog 'stealthily through the bushes', and they are also described as trekking with 'silent footsteps'.

Chapter 7

p. 52 Which words or phrases on this page tell you that the bear makes a lot of noise?

- Example answer: It says that there is an 'earth-shattering roar' and that 'the ground trembles'. It also says that the bear's 'heavy footsteps pound behind us'.

p. 52 Which words or phrases on this page tell you that Bee finds it difficult to swim in the river?

- Example answer: 'Desperately, I try to pull my body through the raging river' shows that it is a struggle for Bee to swim. It also tells us that she is 'dragged underwater' when hit by a wave. Bee chokes and splutters in the water.

p. 53 What time of day do you think it is when this part of the story takes place, and how do you know?

- Example answer: The sun is setting so it is evening time. As we know the story is set in summertime, and the sun sets later in the summer, this part of the story probably takes place quite late in the evening.

p. 54 Why has the author chosen the sentence: 'The bear's small eyes shine with malice'?

- Example answer: I think that the author uses this sentence because they want to show that the bear will attack her. I think this because malice means intending harm.

p. 55 Why has the author chosen the words 'deathly drop' to describe what is over the edge of the waterfall?

- I think the author uses 'deathly drop' because it is such a big drop that anyone who falls down could be killed.

Deeper Reading:

p. 45-46 What evidence can you find in the text that there is a strong bond between Bee and Dog?

- Example answer: Bee says that 'If I'm excited, he's excited'. On p. 45, their close bond is shown when they play together in the water. Also, she calls him a clever dog on p. 46.

p. 53 'Water glitters on the rocks, like a spell to lure the unwary'. What do you think this sentence means?

- Example answer: I think the water looks very glittery and inviting so it makes people want to go into the water. Using the word 'spell' makes it sound a little bit like a warning that the river has some sort of magical powers. 'Lure' also makes the river sound dangerous, as if it is trying to trick people.

p. 56 How do you think Bee is feeling at the end of the part of the story you have read today (p. 56 up to the skull)? Which words make you think this?

- Example answer: I think that Bee can hardly believe that she is still alive because she repeats this to help herself understand that it is true: 'I'm alive! We're both alive! Alive, alive, alive.' I also think that she feels proud that she has killed a bear and delighted that she won't be made to pluck feathers again, because she said: 'No one's going to make me pluck feathers all day after *this*'.

Related Activities

Punctuation and Grammar: Children play the **A or An Game** with a partner.

Challenge! Children choose one of the words and say it out loud in a sentence, using 'a' or 'an' correctly.



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

Challenge! Children write a description of a Stone Age animal of their choice, such as a mammoth, a boar, a deer or a sabre-toothed cat.

Related Activities

Comprehension: Children look in Chapters 6, 7 and 8 to find the information that they need to complete the [Fill In the Table Activity Sheet](#).

Challenge! Children write their own question in the final row and answer it for each of the chapters included on the grid.

Infer: Children complete the [Reading between the Lines Activity Sheet](#).

Challenge! Children write down their predictions on how the 'strange tribe' Bee saw in this chapter might affect her life later in the story or in the future.

List: Children complete the [Dictionary Skills Activity Sheet](#).

Challenge! Children write a list of six words which all start with the same letter in alphabetical order.



Read: Children read from the skull on p. 56 to the end of Chapter 7 and then read Chapter 8.

Challenge! Write a summary of what happens in the part of the story that you have read independently today.