

How to Skin a Bear: Activity Plan 7

Reading Skill:

2h. Make comparisons within the text.

To compare different parts of the story.

Vocabulary and Key Phrases:

Bee, Dad, Achoo, Dog, Snore of the Rat, Knotted Mane, Breath of the Vulture, Tumbling Pebble, Bent Tree, Rock of the Long Sun, Pig Lick River, mimicking, astonishingly, Midsummer Ritual, majestic, slew, irreplaceable, suppress, smirk.

Prior Learning: Children will have read up to the end of Chapter 8

Reading Task: Read Chapter 9.

Reading Questions

Chapter 9

p. 70 'I am Bee, Slayer of Bears.' How do you think Bee feels about herself at this point in the story compared to how she felt at the start?

- Example answer: It sounds like she is proud of herself. She thinks that she is brave and strong. In contrast, at the start of the story she felt frustrated that she wasn't allowed to do the jobs that she wanted.

p. 72 'Astonishingly, I even wish that I could hear Rat's irritating whine of a voice.' Why is the word 'astonishingly' used here?

- Example answer: It is astonishing that Bee misses Rat because at the start of the story he is mean and she finds him annoying.

p. 73 Read the paragraph which begins 'For a while', and explain how the things that Bee does now are different to the things she did at the start of the book.

- Example answer: Bee is able to look after herself now. For example, she starts a fire and roasts some meat. At the start of the book, she was only allowed to pluck feathers and she hadn't had the chance to look after herself on her own yet.

p. 74 Do you think Snore of the Rat has changed since the start of the story? What tells you this?

- Example answer: No, I do not think that Snore of the Rat has changed. He is walking at the front, which makes me think he is still navigating. He swings his arms and bounces in the same way and he speaks 'smugly' which is how he spoke at the start of the story.

p. 75 How is Dad's behaviour at the start of the book different to how he is behaving now?

- Example answer: At the start of the book, Dad is joking and singing, and seems strong and wise. However, at this point in the story, he has red eyes from crying and he is staring at the ground.

p. 76 How does Dad react to seeing Bee? Is this how you would expect him to react, based on what you know about him from earlier in the book?

- Example answer: When Dad sees Bee, he leaps to his feet, picks

her up and spins her around. He feels very proud of her. This is how I would expect him to react, because at the start of the book he was telling Bee how much he loved her and was quite an expressive person, often singing, etc.

p. 78 "Bears can't grin," says Rat. Why do you think Rat says this?

- Example answer: I think Rat says this because we know from earlier in the book that Rat often puts Bee down. Here, he is trying to find fault in what she says because he is jealous that she is getting all the attention.

p. 79-80 How is the tribe going to change their way of living? How is this different to how they have lived before?

- Example answer: They are going to settle in one place and build houses rather than to travel from place to place as they have done before.

Deeper Reading:

p. 74 Bee tries to 'spear her thoughts like fish' so they won't bother her. Can you think of another point in the story when Bee tries hard to control her thoughts in a similar way?

- Example answer: In Chapter 2, Bee tries to make sense of her thought by ordering them. In Chapter 8, she dismisses her own thoughts about the skull in the cave by saying 'Well, no one needs to be afraid of the silly bear any more. Thanks to me.'

p. 81 How does Bee feel during this Ritual compared to how she has felt at previous Rituals?

- Example answer: At previous Rituals, Bee has felt left out of proceedings. During this Ritual, she is 'buzzing like a beehive' when she gets to take part. She is delighted that she has proved herself.

p. 81 "Dad, it's not our names that make us who we are," I say firmly. "It's our actions." How does Bee feel about this idea at the end of the story, and how is this different to how she felt when Dad first said this to her at the beginning?

- Example answer: At the beginning of the story, Bee thinks that names define who people are. However, by the end, she understands that it doesn't matter what her name is because she knows that she has killed a bear and helped her tribe.

Related Activities

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

Challenge! Children write a plan for a piece of writing about life in the Stone Age. They write down the subheadings they would include and what they would write about in each section.

Vocabulary: Children play the [Bee's Journey Vocabulary Board Game](#) in groups.

Challenge! Children write their own vocabulary questions on the blank cards about vocabulary used in the text.



Related Activities

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

Challenge! Children decide if they think Bee will be happy to go back to plucking feathers if she does find her tribe again, explaining their answer.

Sort: Children complete the [Character Description Activity Sheet](#).

Challenge! Children choose one word or phrase from each box and explain why they put it in that box, using evidence from the text to explain their answer.

Recount: Children complete the [Bee's Diary Activity Sheet](#).

Challenge! Children write an entry for Dad's diary at this point in the story (the end of Chapter 8) when he might be starting to give up hope of finding Bee after he has spent days searching for her. ✓

Digital: Children work in threes and use a camera or tablet to film a book review, using the [Book Review Video Activity Sheet](#) to guide them.

Challenge! Children make up their own interview questions to ask each other about 'How to Skin a Bear'.