

Comprehension

Part A

The answers to the following questions can be found in Chapter 9 of 'How to Skin a Bear'.

1. Why does Bee have to follow the Pig Lick River? (p. 70)

2. Why does Bee wear her bearskin and mask on the first day of walking? (p. 70)

3. Why does Bee decide not to wear her bearskin and mask on the second day of walking? Give two reasons. (p. 70-71)

a) _____

b) _____

4. Tick all the ways in which Bee mimics Rat. (p. 71)

She says things in his voice.	
She makes a fire.	
She falls asleep.	
She bounces on her toes.	
She caws like a crow.	
She swings her arms.	

5. How does Bee think a good idea might come to her? (p. 72)

6. Which direction do Bee and Dog walk in? (p. 72)

7. Why does Bee not believe that it is impossible to move the Rock of the Long Sun? (p. 73)

8. How do you think Bee feels just before she reveals that she is there to the tribe? (p. 76)

9. Why do you think that Rat is the only one who doesn't gasp when Bee describes how she killed the bear? (p. 78)

10. Where do the tribe decide to settle down? (p. 80)



11. Write down what you think some of the characters might be thinking in this scene.

Part B

The answers to the following questions can be found in Chapter 9 of 'How to Skin a Bear'.

1. Which phrase tells you that Bee would like to hear her dad singing again? (p. 72)

2. Why do you think the author has chosen to repeat the phrase 'I wish'? (p. 72)

3. Which word tells you that Dog does not really believe that the tribe must be going the long way? (p. 73)

4. Why does Bee stop Dog running to lick the tribe? (p. 74)

5. a) Which word is used to describe the way that Bent Tree walks? (p. 75)

b) Can you think of a word with a similar meaning to this?

6. 'His eyes are all red and have dark circles under them.' What does this tell you about Dad? (p. 75)

7. Why does Bent Tree glare at Rat? (p. 76)

8. Why do you think one of the first things that Bee says to her dad is that she killed a bear? (p. 76)

9. Why do Bent Tree and Dad look at each other when Bee mentions the other tribe she saw?
(p. 77-78)

10. What does the tribe do all night? (p. 81)

★ ★
★ Challenge Task ★

Do you think that Bee will be happy to go back to plucking feathers now that she has found her tribe again? Explain your answer.

Comprehension Answers

Part A

1. Why does Bee have to follow the Pig Lick River? (p. 70)
 - *Bee follows the Pig Lick River because it is the only way she knows to get to the Rock of the Long Sun and find her tribe.*
2. Why does Bee wear her bearskin and mask on the first day of walking? (p. 70)
 - *Bee wears her bearskin and mask to scare off any more cave bears.*
3. Why does Bee decide not to wear her bearskin and mask on the second day of walking? Give two reasons. (p. 70-71)
 - *a) It is too hot to wear the bearskin.*
 - *b) The bearskin is starting to smell funny.*
4. Tick all the ways in which Bee mimics Rat. (p. 71)

She says things in his voice.	✓
She makes a fire.	
She falls asleep.	
She bounces on her toes.	✓
She caws like a crow.	
She swings her arms.	✓

5. How does Bee think a good idea might come to her? (p. 72)
 - *Bee thinks that, if she does a handstand, a good idea might fall out of her head.*

6. Which direction do Bee and Dog walk in? (p. 72)
 - *They walk west.*
7. Why does Bee not believe that it is impossible to move the Rock of the Long Sun? (p. 73)
 - *Bee doesn't think it is impossible to move the Rock of the Long Sun because otherwise her ancestors wouldn't have been able to get the stone up there in the first place.*
8. How do you think Bee feels just before she reveals that she is there to the tribe? (p. 76)
 - *Example answer: I think she is excited to surprise them. She says to herself, 'I'm about to blow their minds.'*
9. Why do you think that Rat is the only one who doesn't gasp when Bee describes how she killed the bear? (p. 78)
 - *Example answer: I think that Rat does not gasp when Bee describes how she kills the bear because he feels jealous of the attention that she is getting.*
10. Where do the tribe decide to settle down? (p. 80)
 - *The tribe decide to settle down beside the the Rock of the Long Sun.*
11. Example answers:
 - *I'm so happy to see Bee. I thought we might never see her again!*
 - *What is Bee doing wearing a bearskin? I wonder where she got that...*

Part B

1. Which phrase tells you that Bee would like to hear her dad singing again? (p. 72)
 - *The phrase that tells me that Bee would like to hear her dad singing again is when she says: 'What I wouldn't give to hear Dad singing one of his songs again.'*
2. Why do you think the author has chosen to repeat the phrase 'I wish'? (p. 72)
 - *I think that the author has repeated 'I wish' to show how much Bee wants these things to happen.*

3. Which word tells you that Dog does not really believe that the tribe must be going the long way? (p. 73)
 - *The word 'unconvinced' tells me that Dog does not really believe that the tribe must be going the long way.*
4. Why does Bee stop Dog running to lick the tribe? (p. 74)
 - *Bee stops Dog running to lick the tribe because she wants to work out what is wrong first.*
5. a) Which word is used to describe the way that Bent Tree walks? (p. 75)
 - *The word 'hobbles' is used to describe the way that Bent Tree walks.*b) Can you think of a word with a similar meaning to this?
 - *A word with a similar meaning is 'limps'.*
6. 'His eyes are all red and have dark circles under them.' What does this tell you about Dad? (p. 75)
 - *The red eyes tell me that Dad has been crying. I think that he might have dark circles under his eyes because he hasn't been sleeping well.*
7. Why does Bent Tree glare at Rat? (p. 76)
 - *I think that Bent Tree glares at Rat to tell him to be quiet so that he doesn't upset Achoo more by saying that they won't find Bee.*
8. Why do you think one of the first things that Bee says to her dad is that she killed a bear? (p. 76)
 - *Example answer: I think that Bee is excited to tell her dad about killing the bear because she feels very proud of herself and she wants her dad and her tribe to feel proud of her too.*
9. Why do Bent Tree and Dad look at each other when Bee mentions the other tribe she saw? (p. 77-78)
 - *Example answer: I think that Bent Tree and Dad look at each other when Bee mentions the other tribe because they had also been planning to settle down like that tribe.*
10. What does the tribe do all night? (p. 81)
 - *The tribe carry on leaping, yodelling, clapping and twirling all through the night.*

★ ★
★ Challenge Task ★

Do you think that Bee will be happy to go back to plucking feathers now that she has found her tribe again? Explain your answer.

Example answer:

I don't think that Bee would be happy to go back to plucking feathers. Although she was very scared when she fought the bear, she was very proud of herself afterwards and she doesn't say anything to suggest that she doesn't want to do anything like that again. On her journey with Dog, she has also used many skills that I think she will want to use back with the tribe, such as lighting fires and gathering food. The tribe included her in the Ritual and are acting as if she is a full member of the tribe now, so I think she will be given better jobs in the future.