

Describing the Appearance of a Character

Look carefully at this illustration of the main character from 'How to Skin a Bear' with her dog and write a piece of descriptive writing about what you can see in the picture. You don't need to have read any of the book to complete this activity - but if you have then you can use what you know!

As the text of 'How to Skin a Bear' is written in the present tense, keep your writing in the present tense too to practise this skill.

There is a word bank to help you if you need it.



Sentence Starters	Helpful Words
The girl is standing...	young
His eyes...	friendly
His paws...	fierce
He walks in a... way.	smiling
Her tunic is...	thick
There are...	furry
On her wrist...	bracelet
She looks...	leg warmers
Around her legs...	twine
	tame
	gentle
	careful
	alert
	nervously
	close
	loyal
	huge
	barefooted
	dazzling
	shimmering

Dis- and Mis- Words

Part A

Bee **disagrees** with her father that she should accept her job plucking feathers.

The prefix dis- changes a word to mean that someone has done the opposite of that action.



The prefix mis- changes a word to mean that someone has performed that action incorrectly.



Which other words starting with the prefixes dis- and mis- can you find in this word search? Circle the words that you find and write them in the space next to the word search. There are six dis- words and six mis- words hidden in the word search.

t	m	g	f	d	i	s	h	o	n	e	s	t	x	k
l	d	i	s	a	p	p	o	i	n	t	z	h	d	h
z	j	z	s	b	d	i	s	o	w	n	p	z	i	h
m	d	d	m	u	h	n	z	w	t	u	v	v	s	p
i	i	i	p	v	n	h	f	i	m	i	e	y	o	t
s	s	s	d	c	s	d	e	n	l	e	d	a	b	q
t	l	q	m	i	s	b	e	h	a	v	e	p	e	y
r	i	u	i	e	o	c	d	r	k	e	c	e	y	y
u	k	a	q	h	j	c	m	i	s	p	l	a	c	e
s	e	l	r	l	g	u	o	q	d	t	d	j	m	r
t	m	i	s	s	p	e	l	l	v	q	a	q	p	h
e	q	f	m	j	h	a	j	j	n	w	x	n	k	b
o	o	y	v	t	p	f	r	q	l	p	d	u	d	t
c	m	i	s	h	e	a	r	x	b	b	s	x	i	j
p	p	u	h	u	x	w	j	j	n	f	u	d	t	k

How many other words starting with dis- and mis- can you think of?

List them here.

Part B

Bee disagrees with her father that she should accept her job plucking feathers.

The prefix dis- changes a word to mean that someone has done the opposite of that action.



The prefix mis- changes a word to mean that someone has performed that action incorrectly.



Can you choose a suitable word from the word bank to fit into the gaps in the sentences below?

.....

disappear	misuse	dislodge	mislablel
mislead	disinfect	disembark	misinterpret
disconnect	misplace	discovered	

1. The tribe member did not mean to _____ his spear but he could not see it anywhere.
2. We decided to _____ the car battery as we would not be driving the car for a few weeks.
3. Dad does not want to _____ Bee into thinking that she will be doing lots of other jobs for the tribe because he knows she needs to pluck feathers while she is young.
4. One of the tribe members was being very silly and started to _____ the bows and arrows by messing around with them.
5. The teacher started to _____ the history books as English books but quickly realised his error.
6. It is likely that Dog will _____ Bee's mood when she shouts as, no matter whether she is cross or happy, he gets excited whenever she shouts.

7. In Stone Age times, they did not know that they could _____ things to help prevent diseases spreading.
8. No one knows for sure when it happened, but human beings _____ how to make fire a long time ago.
9. Sometimes things _____ into Dog's mouth and are never seen again.
10. Our flight landed and we were told by the cabin crew that it was time to

Challenge Task

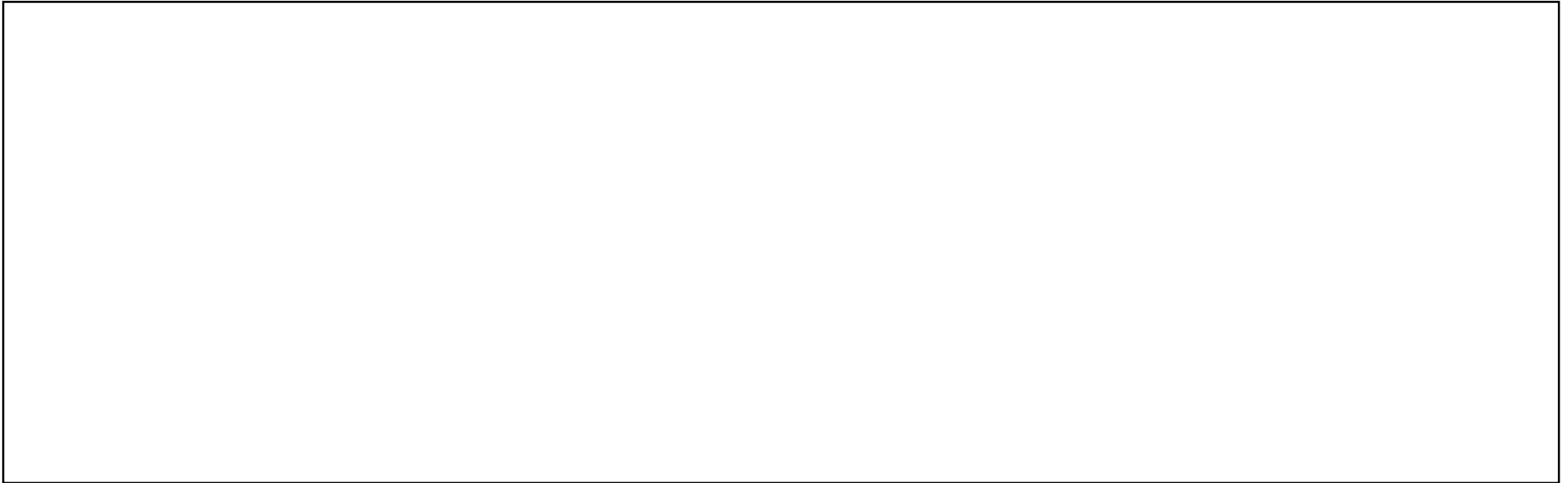
Write your own sentence using three mis- or dis- words.

Finding Out about Characters

Part A

Read up to the bottom of page 3. Look for all the evidence you can find about Dog. Draw Dog and add labels to him to explain what you have found out about him from the text.

If you have found something out about his personality, write it anywhere on the page.



This dog is called Dog but what name do you think would suit him more? Explain your answer.

Part B

What can you work out about the character of Dad just from what he says and does in the very first part of the book?

Below are some quotations from the text. What does each quotation tell you about Dad? Write this in the second column.

Quotation from the text	This makes me think that...
"Well, plucking feathers is your job, Bee," says Dad, chuckling.	He is realistic and states facts. He thinks it is funny that it is Bee's job to pluck feathers or maybe he is chuckling because she has moaned so many times before about plucking feathers.
"As you get older, you will learn new skills, but for now, get plucking!"	
My dad is the sort of dad whose goatskin tunic doesn't go all the way round his belly.	
He is also one of the tribe elders.	
Dad makes new bows from the animal guts and furry clothes from their skins.	
Ignoring my groaning, Dad sings as he mixes up the deer brains.	
"Well, I don't hate ducks, Bee," says Dad, glancing towards me. "Duck skin makes lovely, soft leather. Your underpants are made of duck skin. Rubbing in the brain..." he continues to sing happily.	

Challenge Task

Can you think of five words beginning with 's' which could be used to describe Dad?

Write them here:

Inverted Commas

Part A

Inverted commas go around the words that are spoken when you are writing direct speech.

E.g. "I *hate* feathers," said Bee.

There are some important rules for using inverted commas when writing direct speech.

Beginning and End

Keep your inverted commas at the beginning and end of words being spoken.

New Speaker, New Line

Keep your inverted commas at the beginning and end of words being spoken.

Capital Letter

Begin what is spoken with a capital letter.

Commas

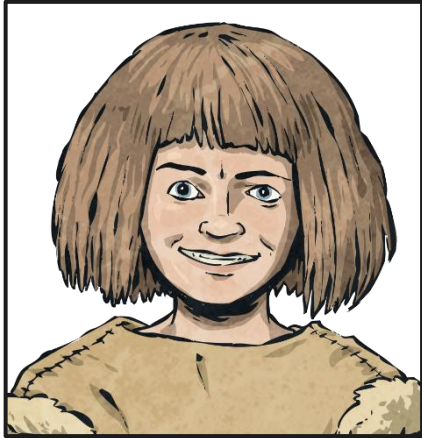
Remember to use commas to introduce the quotation and at the end of direct speech if there is no other relevant punctuation there.

Place inverted commas in the correct place in the following sentences.

1. It's covered in dog slime! yelled Bee.
2. This job is so boring, groaned Bee.
3. When will I ever get to hunt like the others? asked Bee.
4. Bee sighed, I've had enough of this now.
5. Bee shouted, Give it to me, Dog!
6. Dad said, As you get older, you will learn new skills.
7. I don't want to wait until I'm older, complained Bee. I want to do fun stuff now.

8. Dad sand loudly, Rubbing in the gloopy brain is fun to do.
9. Duck skin makes lovely, soft leather, explained Dad. Your underpants are made of duck skin.
10. Have you still got that feather in your teeth, Dog? asked Bee. Come here and I will help you to get it out.

Write a sentence using inverted commas for direct speech to report what is being said here.



That brain goo is
disaustina!

E.g. "That brain goo is
disgusting!" said Bee.

It's such a beautiful day!



11. _____

12. Make up your own sentence where Bee says something and write it here.

Part B

Inverted commas go around the words that are spoken when you are writing direct speech.

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Beginning and End

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New Speaker, New Line

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Capital Letter

Begin what is spoken with a capital letter.

Commas

Remember to use commas to introduce the quotation and at the end of direct speech if there is no other relevant punctuation there.

Some of the punctuation is missing in the following sentences, which are based upon 'How to Skin a Bear'. Mark in the missing speech punctuation. Where you think a new line should start, mark a slanted vertical line (/). Write capital letters over the top of ones given in lower case.

E.g. "I hate moving from place to place," sighed Bee. "I get so tired."

E.g. Bee moaned, "Feathers are so grim."

1. I'm tired and I'm grumpy sighed Bee.
2. Keep going said Dad. We will be there soon.
3. We have been travelling for five suns now complained Bee. I'm sick of it.

4. My feet are sore and my back is full of aches she moaned.
5. You really must stop complaining said Dad. This is the life we lead.
6. Travelling is especially boring when you are the youngest in the tribe explained Bee. Oh, you are a grumbler replied Dad.
7. Bee asked why do we have to carry everything? It's so heavy.
8. Dad explained we need to get to the Rock of the Long Sun. We will be there soon enough.
9. One day I will hunt like the others declared Bee resolutely.
10. At least we are warm in the summer sun said Dad. We should be thankful for all we have. Ugh grunted Bee in reply, not feeling very thankful as she trudged along.

Challenge Task

Imagine that Dog can talk! Write down a conversation between Bee and Dog, using all the rules for writing direct speech using inverted commas.

hero



pilot



super-

anti-

human

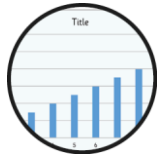


auto-

biotic



graph



Prefixes Game

market



How to play

Roll the dice to see how many squares to move.

Root Words: When you land on a picture, choose the right prefix to turn this root word into a noun: anti-, super- or auto-.

Prefix: When you land on a prefix, say a word which starts with this prefix.

Challenge: Think of more complex words and put the word you have said into a sentence.

super-

freeze



Start

clockwise



Finish

auto-

star



super-

glue



mobile



anti-

Synonyms

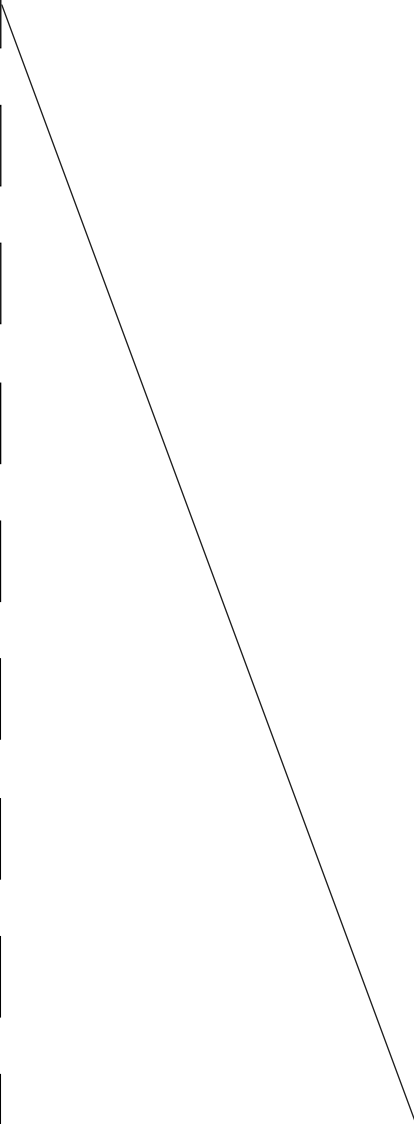
Part A

A synonym is a word or phrase which means the same or nearly the same as another word or phrase.

In the left-hand column, there are some words from 'How to Skin a Bear'. Can you find a word in the right-hand column which has the same or nearly the same meaning as this word? Match them up by drawing a line.

A dictionary or thesaurus may be helpful for this task. One pair has been matched up for you.

hate	warning
tribe	disorder
omen	drooling
fearsome	unjust
chaos	giggling
unfair	group
chuckling	pointed
sharp	exhausted
slavering	detest
tired	frightening



Choose three words from the right-hand column and write a sentence for each word you have chosen, showing that you understand the meaning of the word.

E.g. unjust:

Bee is always complaining that it is unjust that she only gets to pluck feathers.

Part B

A synonym is a word or phrase which means the same or nearly the same as another word or phrase.

Below are sentences taken from Chapter 1 of 'How to Skin a Bear'. Can you replace the highlighted words with suitable synonyms?

jumps **grasps** **sharp**

E.g. My dog, Dog, **leaps** up and **snatches** it in his **pointy** teeth.

1. I **grab** the duck's **scaly** feet and **yank** firmly, but Dog won't let go.
2. "I **especially** hate feathers **covered** in dog slime," I **snarl** through gritted teeth.
3. I could be a **mighty** hunter too, if only I had the **chance**.
4. After the elders **come back** from their hunt, Dad **makes** new bows from the animal **guts** and **furry** clothes from their skins.
5. Dog huffs and **shakes** his tufty head, **trying** to spit the feathers from his **teeth**.
6. **Glumly**, I pull out hunk after hunk of feathers and **throw** them onto the **ground**.
7. "Well, I don't hate ducks, Bee," **says** Dad, **glancing** towards me.

Challenge Task

Can you make changes to the blurb, changing some of the words to suitable synonyms?

Bee is the youngest in her Stone Age tribe, and she hates it. While the elders get to hunt, skin animals and perform rituals, Bee has to watch from the shadows with only the company of her dog, Dog. One day, an omen appears: a red sun which warns of great danger. That night, a fearsome storm strikes and, in the chaos, Bee and Dog are lost in the wilderness.

Bee must face danger head on, finding food, seeking shelter, and even fighting a bear, if she ever hopes to see her tribe again...