

An illustration of a cavewoman with long brown hair, wearing a tan cap and a brown tunic with a knife tucked into a belt. She is carrying a large brown bear skin over her shoulder. In the background, there are cave walls with animal paintings, a herd of bison, and a red line on the ground. Two white rectangular boxes are at the bottom of the page.

How to Skin a Bear

Guided Reading Questions

Front Cover



What impression do you get from this front cover?

Do you think that this is a fiction or non-fiction book? Why?



Can you make any predictions about the book?

Back Cover



“It is not our names that make us who we are, Bee. It is our actions.”

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...



Read the blurb.

Does this change your predictions about the story?

During and after reading each chapter...

Three active listening tasks and questions are provided for display whilst a chapter is being read.

These give focus to what children are listening out for or locating while they listen to the story.

Five questions are provided for after each chapter has been read.

These may be just for discussion or answered on whiteboards, verbally or as a short assessment of understanding.



The Dance of the Drippity Drops

To think about while reading:

1

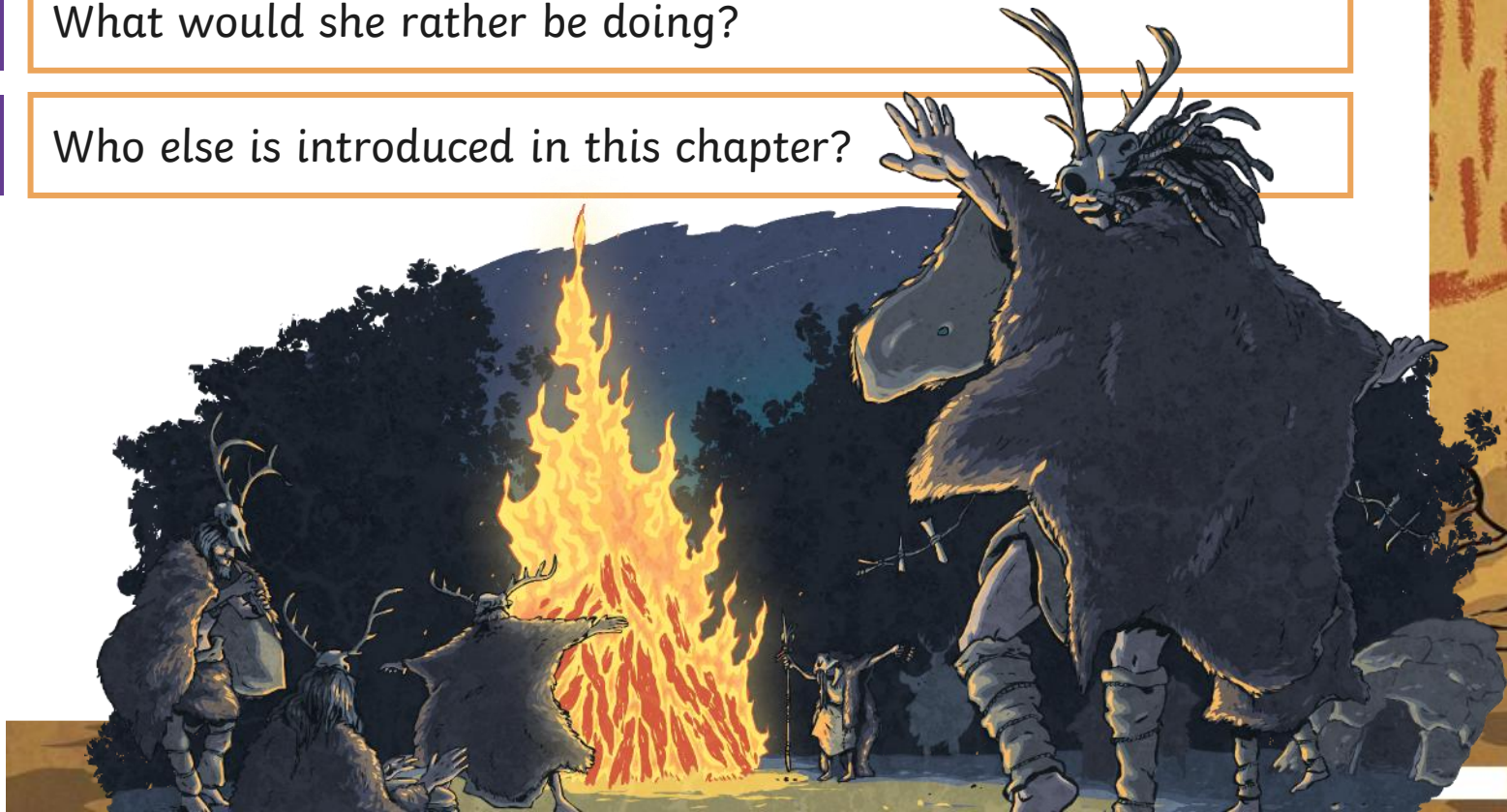
How does Bee feel about her task of plucking feathers?

2

What would she rather be doing?

3

Who else is introduced in this chapter?



The Dance of the Drippity Drops

After reading the chapter:

1

How does Bee feel throughout the chapter?

2

What does Achoo think about Bee complaining?

3

How do you think the tribe feel when the sky turns red?

4

What does Bee do when she sees Bent Tree's mask?

5

Have you ever wanted to grow up quicker to do something?
What was it?

Goat Guts and Ox Intestines

To think about while reading:

1

How many people are there in Bee's tribe?

2

Who are the Sky Spirits?

3

What should Bee have done when her dad called her?



Goat Guts and Ox Intestines

After reading the chapter:

1

What is it like inside the tent where the tribe sleep?

2

What is the meaning of the word 'pandemonium'?

3

What made Bee go after Dog?

4

On p.16, why do none of the bits of speech have names beside them?

5

What does Bee imagine has happened to Dog?

I Have Done a Few Things Wrong

To think about while reading:

1

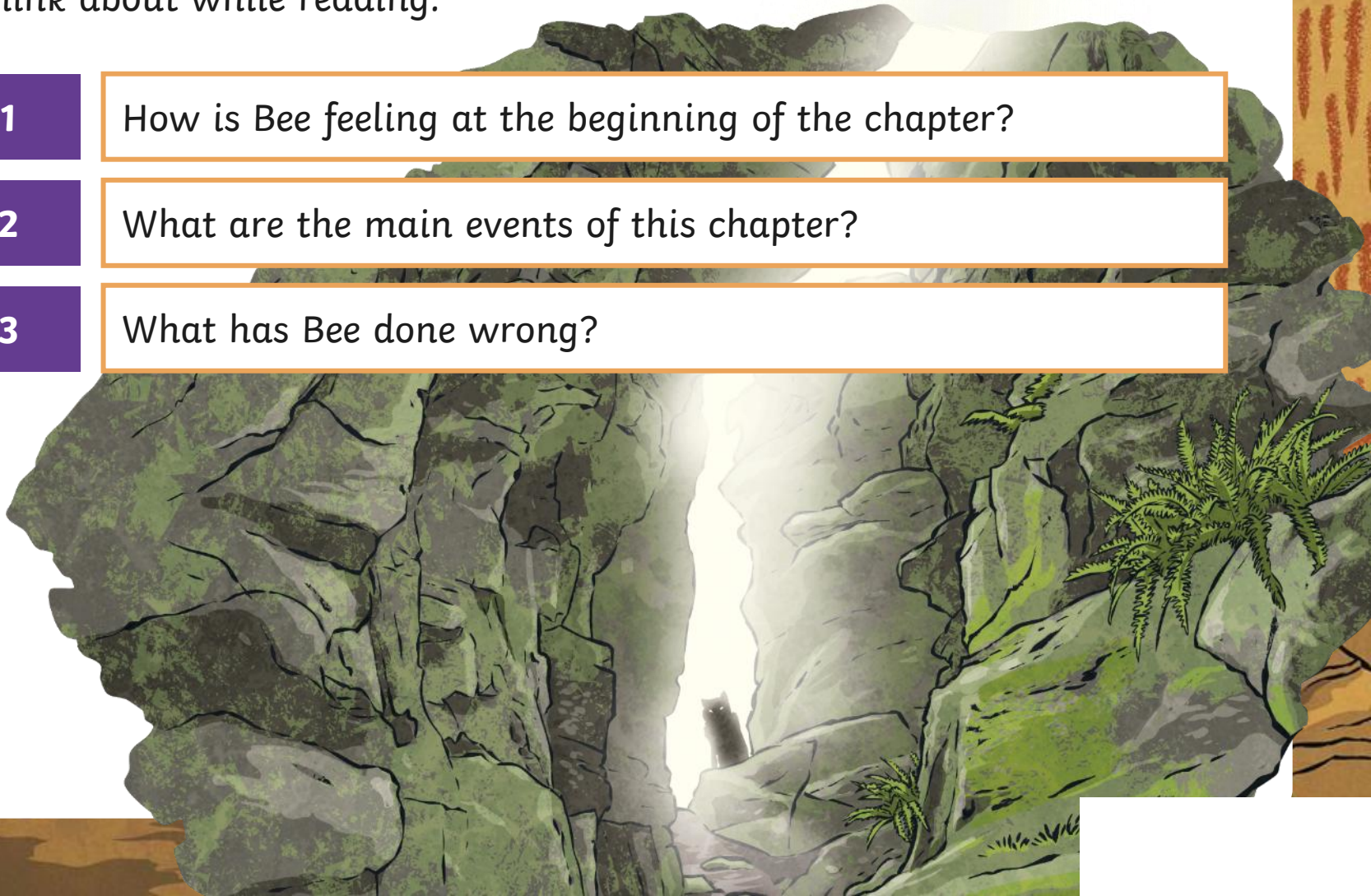
How is Bee feeling at the beginning of the chapter?

2

What are the main events of this chapter?

3

What has Bee done wrong?



I Have Done a Few Things Wrong

After reading the chapter:

1

How does Bee feel about the tribe telling her to leave Dog behind?

2

What is the weather like?

3

Why does Bee draw her numbers that way?

4

What animal does Bee think is in the cave opening?

5

When she opens her eyes, who or what is licking her?

A Scrumptious, Crunchy Feast

To think about while reading:

1

What is the 'scrumptious, crunchy feast'?

2

What does Bee see from the top of the hill?

3

What does Dog smell like?



A Scrumptious, Crunchy Feast

After reading the chapter:

1

Can you name three things Bee and Dog find in this chapter?

2

Why is the river called Pig Lick?

3

Who does Bee think she has to act like?

4

How does Bee describe the Rock of the Long Sun?

5

What do you think will happen next?

Solid Tents and Rolling Cows

To think about while reading:

1

How does Bee tackle the job of making a fire?

2

Who do the bones belong to?

3

What are the key differences between Bee's tribe and the one she and Dog have discovered?



Solid Tents and Rolling Cows

After reading the chapter:

1

What does Bee do to help her remember how to light the fire?

2

Who was the first human to make fire, according to the story Bee had heard?

3

Why are the new tribe able to find food close to home all the time?

4

Bee mentions having mutton for supper. What is mutton?

5

Can you give a definition of the word 'colossal'?

Whack, Hack, Bone Broth

To think about while reading:

1

Why is the rock found by Dog so important?

2

What is the name of the river?

3

What do Bee and Dog discover at the end of this chapter?



Whack, Hack, Bone Broth

After reading the chapter:

1

What does Vulture advise on his hunts?

2

What game do Bee and Dog play in the river?

3

What does Bee decide to make using the stone?

4

How does Bee feel about being able to make things just by watching others do it?

5

Does Bee feel better now that she has an axe?

I Have a Cunning Plan

To think about while reading:



1

How does Bee overcome the bear?

2

What does Bee do to celebrate the fact that she is still alive?

3

Why does bear meat taste so good to Bee and Dog?

I Have a Cunning Plan

After reading the chapter:

1

What do you think seeing a bear so close up feels like?

2

Bee describes the bear's breath as smelling of 'rot and rage'. What does this tell you about the bear?

3

Does Bee's cunning plan work?

4

What is 'malice'?

5

What does the dream at the end of the chapter tell you about Bee?

Sing a Song to Skin a Bear

To think about while reading:

1

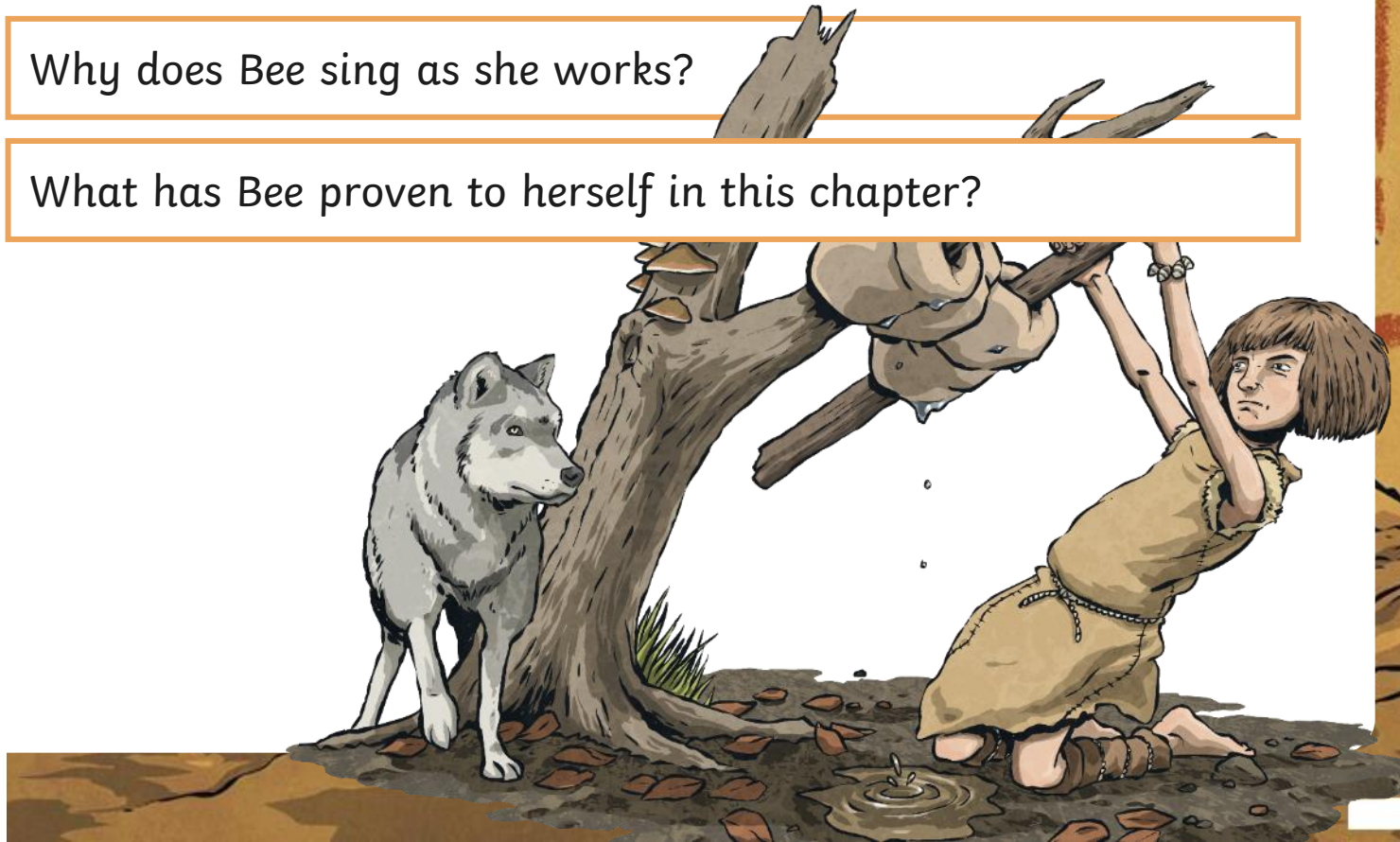
How tiring would it be to drag the dead bear?

2

Why does Bee sing as she works?

3

What has Bee proven to herself in this chapter?



Sing a Song to Skin a Bear

After reading the chapter:

1

Why is Bee cross with the dead bear's body?

2

How did Bee test how sharp her axe blade was?

3

How does Bee's description make the process sound?

4

What are your favourite adjectives from this chapter?

5

Why does the bearskin need to be smoked?

Bee, Slayer of Bears

To think about while reading:

1

Was wearing the bearskin a good idea for Bee?

2

What does Bee think the red sky might have been?

3

How does Achoo greet Bee when they are reunited?



Bee, Slayer of Bears

After reading the chapter:

1

What do Bee and Dog follow in the hope of finding the tribe?

2

Whom does Bee mimic as she marches along the river?

3

What 'hangs around like a hungry dog'?

4

Why does Bee feel like she doesn't need the tribe any more?

5

Has Bee learned anything from the experience?

