

Comprehension


Part A

The following questions are about Chapter 3 of 'How to Skin a Bear'.

1. What time of day is it? (p. 21)

2. What does Bee do to try to get Dog to come to her? (p. 21)

3. What does Bee think the tangled roots might mean if she knew how to navigate? (p. 21)

4. Why do you think the author chooses to write  rather than writing it as the word three? (p. 21)

5. Why does Bee shake her head hard from side to side? (p. 22)

6. Why do Bee's feet have cuts and grazes all over them? (p. 22)

7. Why do you think Bee says, 'Oh, pig's bladder'? (p. 23)

8. Name two things that Bee has done wrong. (p. 23)

9. What does Bee do to try to make herself stay awake? (p. 24)

10. Why couldn't Bee grab the tree trunk properly? (p. 26)

11. What is your favourite part of this chapter? Explain your answer.

Part B

The following questions are about Chapter 3 of 'How to Skin a Bear'.

1. 'I stumble into a clearing.' Why do you think Bee stumbles? (p.21)

2. 'I frantically scan the area around me...' What does 'frantically scan' tell the reader about the way that Bee looks around? (p. 21)

3. "Your job is plucking feathers, Bee. Just stick with the tribe and you'll be alright." Although this is shown in inverted commas in the text, it does not tell us who is saying this. Who do you think might be saying this? (p. 21)

4. Why does Bee start running? (p. 22)

5. Which phrase tells you that Bee's chest hurts from running? (p. 22)

6. How is Bee's skin described? Do you think this is a good description? (p. 23)

7. Why do you think the writer decided to put a gap and a picture of a skull to break up the text in the middle of page 24?


8. Describe something that the author has done in this chapter to create suspense and make you want to read on.

★ ★
★ Challenge Task ★

Do you think that Bee shows determination in this chapter? Explain your answer.

Comprehension Answers

Part A

1. What time of day is it? (p. 21)
 - *It is dawn. It is nearly daylight and Bee has been chasing after Dog all night.*
2. What does Bee do to try to get Dog to come to her? (p. 21)
 - *She whistles like she has seen the elders do on hunts.*
3. What does Bee think the tangled roots might mean if she knew how to navigate? (p. 21)
 - *She says that they might mean she should go east until she reaches a river and then south until three bats fly overhead.*
4. Why do you think the author chooses to write  rather than writing it as the word three? (p. 21)
 - *Example answer: I think the author does this to make it look more like the Stone Age and to show that this is how Bee understands numbers so it shows things from Bee's point of view.*
5. Why does Bee shake her head hard from side to side? (p. 22)
 - *She shakes her head because sometimes, when she does this, clever thoughts fall out.*
6. Why do Bee's feet have cuts and grazes all over them? (p. 22)
 - *Her feet are covered in cuts and grazes from accidentally standing on things in the dark.*
7. Why do you think Bee says, 'Oh, pig's bladder'? (p. 23)
 - *She is cursing or swearing when she says this because she is cross about how things are going wrong for her.*
8. Name two things that Bee has done wrong. (p. 23)
 - *Example answers: She has complained about plucking feathers and disobeyed Dad by running after Dog. She borrowed a flint spearhead to chop off all of her hair and carved an image on Dad's drum.*

9. What does Bee do to try to make herself stay awake? (p. 24)
 - *Bee tries to prop her eyelids open with sticks from the forest floor.*
10. Why couldn't Bee grab the tree trunk properly? (p. 26)
 - *Bee cannot grab the tree trunk because it is too slippery.*
11. What is your favourite part of this chapter? Explain your answer.
 - *Example answer: I like the part where Bee is listing the thoughts running through her mind as this helps me to understand the character of Bee better.*

Part B

1. 'I stumble into a clearing.' Why do you think Bee stumbles? (p.21)
 - *I think that she stumbles because she is unsteady on her feet as she is so tired after chasing the howling sound all night.*
2. 'I frantically scan the area around me...' What does 'frantically scan' tell the reader about the way that Bee looks around? (p. 21)
 - *'Frantically' tells the reader that Bee is in a panic and 'scan' tells the reader that Bee gazes quickly across the scene in front of her.*
3. "Your job is plucking feathers, Bee. Just stick with the tribe and you'll be alright." Although this is shown in inverted commas in the text, it does not tell us who is saying this. Who do you think might be saying this? (p. 21)
 - *Example answer: These words are being heard by Bee in her head. No one is saying them at this point in the story but she is remembering them. I think that she is either remembering a member of the tribe saying these words to her or she is saying them to herself because she has heard them so many times and I think she now wishes she had stayed with the tribe.*
4. Why does Bee start running? (p. 22)
 - *She realises that there is a possibility that the howling sound could be a wild and dangerous animal that wants to eat her.*
5. Which phrase tells you that Bee's chest hurts from running? (p. 22)
 - *'My lungs burn like fire.'*

