Y3/4 - Term 5 English Home-Learning Week 2

Week 2 Text *The Seal Children by Jackie Morris*

Week 2 is based on this modern retelling of a Welsh legend. It is about the relationship between Selkies (half human and half seal) and humans. It is set in the now deserted Welsh village of Maes Y Mynydd (Place of the Mountain).

**Activity 1** Read and respond to The Seal Children

A few tips for sharing the story

* Look at the cover together and discuss what you think the story will be about
* **Either**, read the story to your child, stopping at various places to check understanding, discuss the characters, enjoy the illustrations, predict what might happen next or explain any new vocabulary
* **Or,** let your child read the story to you (but guide them to include the above activities)
* Possible discussion points after you have read the story:

*What did you enjoy about it and why?*

*Which character did you like best and why?*

*What do you think of the illustrations? What do they add to your understanding or enjoyment of the story?*

*Slide 4 describes the setting of the story – is it effective? Why?*

*What are the similarities between this story and Can you catch a Mermaid?*

*Morlo went back to the sea with his mother and Ffion stayed with Huw – what would you have done?*

*Jackie Morris says that selkies (or sea fairies) are seen all around the coast of Britain – do you think that is true? Why? Why not?*

**Activity 2:** Choose from these writing activities (we suggest you choose at least one of these activities, although some children may want to do more)

* Copy out the setting description on Slide 4 in your neatest handwriting and illustrate it.
* On slide 6 the writer describes a typical day for Morlo and Ffion. Write and illustrate a list, for each of them, of the jobs that they need to do each day.
* Imagine you are Ffion or Morlo and write a diary entry at the end of a typical day, as described on slide 6.
* Look up the meanings of these words from the story and either write out the meanings or put the word into a new sentence

*emigrate, prosperous, moorland, gorse, haul, pearl, plunge, shoal, landlord,*

*barnacles, lustrous*

* Retell the part of the story on slide 10 from a different character’s point of view – you could imagine you are Huw or the sea-woman.
* Jackie Morris likes to use alliteration in her writing – how many examples can you find?
* Write a character description of the stranger who comes to the village on slide 11. What does he look like? What is he wearing? How does he sound?

Where has he come from? What sort of person is he?

* Write a paragraph describing the scene on slide 13. Use all your senses.
* Slide 16 describes Morlo’s experience of diving into the freezing cold sea. Have you ever been in the sea when it is cold and the waves are crashing onto the shore? Write a paragraph about it.
* What happens next? Write a story about Huw and Ffion’s life in the New World, or about the adventures that Huw and his selkie mother have under the sea.
* If you have enjoyed The Seal Children you might like to look at Jackie Morris’s website and find out about some other stories she has written and illustrated - https://www.jackiemorris.co.uk/books.htm

**Activity 3 Grammar:**

*Y3: Apostrophes for contraction*

Possible resources:

* Clip to explain Apostrophes for possession: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sEGPVtxesjM>
* This is another animation, but as a song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B4MVPA1xCY0>
* BBC Bitesize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zvwwxnb/articles/zcyv4qt>
* Apostrophes for possession PowerPoint (this also has lots of activities to practice)

Worksheets for children to choose from:

* Contraction Surgery
* Y3 Contractions Spelling Activity (Answers Provided)
* Y3 Contractions Activity 1 (Answers Provided)
* Y3 Contractions Activity 2 (Answers Provided)

*Y4: Apostrophes for plural possession (ownership)*

This grammar activity comes with a warning! If your child found singular possession last week quite challenging (and lots do!) we would suggest you carry on practising singular possession and revise last week’s work. If they sailed through it then go on to plural possession this week. Rest assured they will revisit this in Y5 and Y6.

Possible resources:

* Animation on singular and plural possession at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNFPnVz7JB4>
* This is another animation, but as a song https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B4MVPA1xCY0
* Apostrophes for plural possession power point (this also has lots of activities to practice)
* PDF Adult guide to apostrophes – from last week - very brief

Worksheets for children to choose from:

* Andrew’s Apostrophes (answers provided)
* Plural Nouns Challenge (answers provided)
* Possessive Plural Nouns (answers provided)