

Y3/4 - Term 6 English Home-Learning Week 1

The first unit of this term is on persuasive writing and builds up to writing about the pros and cons of keeping animals in zoos. We introduce the unit by looking at the story of the Rainbow Bear by Michael Morpurgo

Week 1 Text *The Rainbow Bear*

Week 1 is based on this lovely story about a polar bear who longs to be a rainbow bear. It relates well to the fables work we have already done - the moral is - you must be careful what you wish for!

Activity 1: Read and respond to *The Rainbow Bear*

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 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:

- Reread the beginning of the story to where the polar bear says, "Here I shall dream away the winter ..." What is polar bear about to do? (hibernate) - What does it mean? Do you know any other animals that hibernate?
- Why do you think the bear is so attracted to the rainbow?
- Why do you think the polar bear decided not to eat the old man (the shaman) ?
- When the shaman meets the rainbow bear he says, "There is much danger in beauty my friend." What do you think he means?
- How do you think the bear feels when he is in the cage?
- Would you have gone to look at the rainbow bear if he was in a zoo near you?
- The story is written rather like a poem - do you like the way it is written? Why? Why not?

- There are only 3 main characters in the story (the bear, the shaman and the boy). Which character did you like best and why?
- What do you think of the illustrations? Do they help your understanding or enjoyment of the story?
- How much of the story do you think could be true?
- What did you enjoy about the story and why?
- What can you learn from the story?

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)

- Create a story map of the story using words and pictures.
- Write from a different point of view - imagine you are one of the sailors on the ship that captures the rainbow bear. Why did you do it? How did you capture him? What happened next?
- Describe your own quest to find the end of the rainbow to make a wish - what would you wish for?
- Write a diary entry for the little boy who helps the Rainbow bear escape. How would you feel? Would you want to see the bear again?
- Copy out part of the text in your neatest, joined handwriting and illustrate it in the style of Michael Foreman.
- Write down at least 6 words that are new to you, or words that you are unsure of the meanings. Look up the meanings and put the word into a new sentence.
- Michael Morpurgo likes to use alliteration in his writing to capture the reader's interest - how many examples can you find?
- Michael Foreman is the book's illustrator - imagine you have been asked to illustrate the story - choose one of the scenes, maybe the rainbow bear getting his wish or the rainbow bear in the zoo?
- What happens next? Write the polar bears' next adventure.
- Do some research about the animals that live in the Arctic. Write and illustrate a fact-file about one or more of them.
- Michael Morpurgo is one of the best known children's authors in the world - what can you find out about him? Make a fact file.

Activity 3 Grammar:

Y3 and Y4: Figurative Language

Possible resources:

- Figurative Language PowerPoint (this introduces children to similes, metaphors, personification and hyperbole)
- BBC Bitesize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zfkk7ty>
- This page focuses on similes and metaphors and includes a quiz: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zfkk7ty/articles/z9tkxfr>
- This website provides a simple explanation for parents: <https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-figurative-language>

Activities for children to choose from:

- Spot the Simile or Metaphor
- Finish the Metaphor or Simile
- Change the Simile to a Metaphor

Can you write your own similes and metaphors to describe something?