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Guided Reading Questions and Activities

Chapter 7 and 8: 'We'll Never Let Him Go' and 'The Foxes Begin to Starve'

A

1. What is an 'oath'?
2. Can 'sickly' have more than one meaning?
3. Which word on p31 told you that there was still a big hole?
4. What did the farmers decide as their latest plan?
5. What nearly tempted one of the youngest foxes out of the hole?

Challenge: Magazines often have advice pages. On those pages, experts help to solve people's problems. Write an advice letter to Bean to help him improve his behaviour and appearance.

B

1. What ideas are we given about how determined the farmers are to catch the fox?
2. How did Bean react to the fact that they still hadn't caught the fox?
3. Why is it important that Mr. and Mrs. Fox didn't answer their children's question on p31?
4. Why is Bean the most important farmer?

Challenge: Imagine you were Mr. Fox. What would you be thinking right now? Draw Mr. Fox with a thought bubble and fill in what you think his thoughts might be.

C

1. How does the countryside setting explain why there are so many weapons?
2. 'Every so often, Mr. Fox would creep closer towards the mouth of the tunnel and take a sniff'. What does this tell you about Mr. Fox?

Challenge: Collect all of the adjectives used to describe the farmers and the foxes in this two chapters. What do you notice?

D

1. Is the author trying to make the foxes the victims in this story? Give reasons for your answer.

Challenge: Think of something positive (good), something negative (bad) and something interesting about Mr. Fox.

Answers

A

1. What is an 'oath'?
An oath is a promise.
 2. Can 'sickly' have more than one meaning?
Sickly can mean not very well. In the story 'sickly smile' means that the smile is a little bit too nice.
 3. Which word on p31 told you that there was still a big hole?
The word 'crater' tells us that there is still a big hole.
 4. What did the farmers decide as their latest plan?
The latest plan for the farmer was to wait by the hole until the fox was so hungry he would come out.
 5. What nearly tempted one of the youngest foxes out of the hole?
The smell of chicken nearly tempted the youngest foxes out of the hole.
- Challenge: Write an advice letter to Bean to help him improve his behaviour and appearance.
Letters will vary.

B

1. What ideas are we given about how determined the farmers are to catch the fox?
We are given the following ideas about how determined the farmers are to catch the fox:
They were angry.
They did not want to go home even though they were very hungry.
They were biting huge mouthfuls of soil out of the hill.
2. How did Bean react to the fact that they still hadn't caught the fox?
Bean reacted to not yet catching the fox by shouting down the hole, warning him that they would not be going home until they had caught him.
3. Why is it important that Mr and Mrs Fox didn't answer their children's question on p31?
Mr and Mrs Fox did not want to answer their children because they did not know if and when they would get something to eat.
4. Why is Bean the most important farmer?
Bean is the most important farmer because he makes all the decisions.

Challenge: Draw Mr Fox a thought bubble and fill in what you think his thoughts might be.

Thought bubbles will vary.

C

1. How does the countryside setting explain why there are so many weapons?

The countryside setting explains why there are so many guns because there are lots of workers on each farm.

2. 'Every so often, Mr Fox would creep closer towards the mouth of the tunnel and take a sniff'. What does this tell you about Mr Fox?

The fact that Mr. Fox kept creeping towards the mouth of the tunnel and taking a sniff, shows that he was always trying to protect his family and continually trying to find a way to escape.

Challenge: Collect all the adjectives used to describe the farmers and the foxes in these two chapters. What do you notice?

Farmers: Tired, stiff, hungry, miserable,

Foxes: hungry.

The farmers and the foxes are feeling similar.

D

1. Is the author trying to make the foxes the victims in this story? Give reasons for your answer.

Answers will vary but must be justified.

Challenge: Think of something positive (good), something negative (bad) and something interesting about Mr Fox.

Ideas will vary.