



Running words: 319

Book Summary

This story looks at exploration and problem solving. Scientists Lisa and Matt go on an expedition to the rain forest to look for tree frogs. On their first day, they collect plants and insects and photograph rain forest animals, but they don't see any tree frogs. A rain shower causes them to take cover, and Matt takes off his backpack. Afterwards, Matt realises that a monkey has taken his pack with the tent inside. Luckily, Lisa's pack has the food and other supplies. In the end, Lisa and Matt make a shelter from branches and ferns, allowing them to stay overnight in the rain forest and finish their expedition.

Themes

Adventure, Exploration, Journeys, Problem solving

Features of the Book

- The information contained in the illustrations
- Content words for discussion: *collected, expedition explored, shelter, study, survive*
- Phonics and phonemic awareness: consonant blends – ck; long vowel sounds – *food/ moon*; short vowel sounds – *good/look/took*

Strategies

Rain Forest Adventure introduces and reinforces the following strategies:

- making predictions;
- determining cause and effect;
- visualising.

Materials

- Copies of the Sentence Strips reproducible for this book, cut and ready for use
- Copies of the BM, pencils

Rain Forest Adventure

by Bill Nagelkerke

Introducing the Text

Begin by asking the students to think of any faraway places and environments they would like to visit, such as forests, deserts, the deep ocean, the poles, or even space. Write their answers in a list.

- *What type of place would you like to visit?*
- *What attracts you to that type of place?*

Reading the Text

Hand one book to each student. Ensure that the content words (*collected, explored, expedition, shelter, study, survive*) are integrated naturally into the discussion. An understanding of these terms will help the students appreciate the author's purpose and the decisions the characters make in the story. Encourage the students to use the information in the illustrations and text to make predictions, then to revise or confirm these as you work through the book.

Cover

Together, read the title and the name of the author on the cover and the title page. Look at the illustrations.

- *Who is on the cover?* (two hikers)
- *Where are these people?* (in a rain forest)
- *What do you predict this story is about?* (the hikers' adventure in the rain forest)

Page 2

- *What do you see are clues to these people's jobs?* (microscope and computer on desk, specimen tray, shelves of books, butterflies in glass habitat, posters of frogs)
- *What do you think these people's jobs are?* (scientists who study animals and insects)

Read the text together. Confirm that Lisa and Matt are scientists who study exotic plants and animals.

Page 3

- *What are Lisa and Matt doing?* (packing for their expedition to the rain forest)
- *What items are they taking?* (sleeping bags, first aid kit, collection jars, map, cooking pot)

Read the text together. Confirm that Lisa and Matt are packing for their expedition. Have a student point out the speech marks. Remind the students that these marks indicate who is speaking in the story.

- *Why do Lisa and Matt need to take all their supplies with them?* (There won't be any supplies in the rain forest.)

Pages 4 to 5

- *What do Lisa and Matt see in the rain forest?* (butterflies, chameleon, sloth, birds, trees, plants)
- *What work are they doing?* (photographing the wildlife and collecting samples)

Read the text together. Confirm that Lisa and Matt have entered the rain forest and are taking photographs and samples.

Page 6

- *Why are Lisa and Matt huddled under a large leaf?* (to stay out of the rain)

Read the text together. Confirm that a sudden rain shower has driven Lisa and Matt to take cover.

Page 7

- *What are Lisa and Matt missing after the rain stops?* (Matt's backpack)

Read the text together. Confirm that Matt can't find his backpack.

- *What do you predict happened to Matt's backpack?*

Rain Forest Adventure

Page 8

- *Who has Matt’s backpack?*
(a monkey)

Read the text together. Confirm that a monkey took Matt’s backpack when he put it down during the rain shower.

- *Do you predict Lisa and Matt will have to end their expedition early after losing Matt’s backpack? Why or why not?*

Page 9

- *What have Lisa and Matt found?*
(a clearing in the forest)

Read the text together. Confirm that Lisa and Matt have not let the loss of Matt’s backpack end their expedition, and that they have found a place to make camp.

- *Do you think Lisa and Matt could have stayed in the rain forest if the monkey had taken Lisa’s pack with the food and water in it instead? Why or why not?*

Pages 10 to 11

- *What are Lisa and Matt doing?*
(making a shelter, making a fire, preparing a meal)

Read the text together. Confirm that Lisa and Matt are making a shelter to replace the lost tent and are making a fire to cook dinner.

- *Why does Lisa make the fire inside a circle of stones?* (to prevent the fire from spreading)

Page 12

Read the text together. Discuss with the students the other choices Lisa and Matt might have made when they lost Matt’s pack with the tent.

- *Would you have stayed in the rain forest like Lisa and Matt if you had lost your tent?*
- *Do you think Lisa and Matt are good scientists?*

Revisiting the Text

- Revisit the list of places the students made at the beginning of the story. Have them visualise going on an expedition to their chosen place. What would they need to take to survive? What might they see when they are there?
- Find and list the “ck” consonant blends in the story. With the students, add any other words they know that contain this blend.
- Write the words *food/moon* and *good/look/took* on the board in two lists. With the students, add any other words that contain the long “oo” or short “oo” sound.

Following Up

- Encourage the students to think about the story in terms of a chain of causes and effects. What events led to the shelter problem Lisa and Matt faced and the solution they found? With the students, place the events of the story in a chain on the board with arrows between events, showing cause and effect. For example, the rain shower causes Lisa and Matt to take cover and Matt to take off his backpack. This allows the monkey to take Matt’s backpack, which causes Lisa and Matt to make a shelter from branches and ferns for the night.
- Give the students copies of the BM for this story. They can research three rain forest dwellers: the sloth, the chameleon, and the stick insect. Then they can write what they have learnt in the spaces provided next to each creature.