

Expect the Unexpected

by John Bonallack

Summary

Writer and adventurer John Bonallack travels to Papua New Guinea to help write and publish books for a local school. One trip is more of an adventure than he'd expected!

Features of the Text

- Recount
- Captioned photographs
- Maps
- Fact box
- Contents page, glossary, index

Purpose

Expect the Unexpected can be used to introduce and reinforce the following skills:

- S** finding information in photographs and maps;
- S** analyzing the theme;
- S** summarizing and restating information;
- S** identifying the problems and solutions in a text;
- S** making personal connections with the text.

The Guided Reading Lesson

- S** Finding information in photographs and maps
- S** Analyzing the theme

Introducing the text

Look at the cover of the book and discuss the title.

- What do you think “expect the unexpected” means?
- What might this book be about?

Ask the students to look at the headings and photographs in the story.

- What do you think this story is about?
- Does this agree with what you thought when you looked at the cover? Why?

Reading and discussing the text

Ask the students to read to the end of page 5, then help them to locate Papua New Guinea on a map. Follow the route that the author took between Port Moresby and Wapin Dumaka.

The students can now read to the end of page 10. Discuss what Papua New Guinea is like.

- What do you think it would be like to live in Papua New Guinea?
- How would it be different from where you live?

Encourage the students to use the photographs as well as the text to find information about the roads, houses, food, climate, and leisure activities in Papua New Guinea.

Ask the students to read the section “A Close Call.”

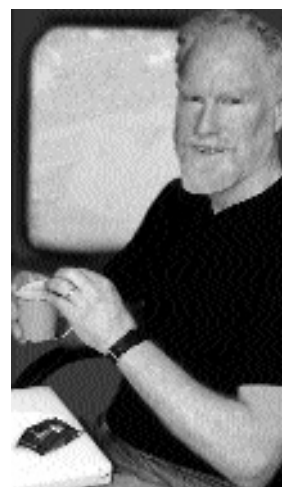
- Why do you think this part of the book was called “A Close Call”?
- What would you have done if you were John?
- How would you have felt?

Discuss the process of solving the dispute and whether the solution was successful.

- Why do you think the singing helped to resolve the problem?
- What does this tell you about how the villagers sometimes solve problems?

The students can now read the rest of the story. Discuss the author's feelings when he finally gets on the plane.

- Have you ever been relieved to get home? Why?



Following Up

The students can:

- use the blackline master on page 69 to compare their culture with that of the villagers’
- write a letter to a villager in Papua New Guinea describing a day in their own life, including information about food, the climate, houses, and leisure activities
- discuss different ways of resolving problems, charting the pros and cons of each method.