

High Wire

by Ali Everts

Summary

A boy visits his cousin in Australia, and they go on a camping trip. They learn the importance of safety on a ropes course the hard way.

Features of the Text

- First-person narrative
- Realistic fiction
- Descriptive language
- Interaction between the characters

Purpose

High Wire can be used for the following purposes:

- introducing the ideas and vocabulary in the associated nonfiction title;
- exploring the factual information in a fiction text;
- making personal connections with the text;
- exploring narrative structure and character development;
- making inferences.

Following Up

The students can:

- use the copy master on page 79 to write alternative endings for the story
- choose an extreme sport and list the rules and the safety equipment that would be needed
- explain the rules that the narrator broke and why they are important.

Guided Reading Summary

Introducing the text

Look at the illustration on the cover of the book and discuss the students' experiences of extreme activities.

- *How would you feel if you were doing this?*
- *How is the boy staying safe?*

Reading and discussing the text

Ask the students to read to the end of page 4 to identify who is telling the story.

- *Where do you think the narrator is from?*
- *How is the narrator different from his cousin? How do you know?*

Encourage the students to support their answers with references to the text.

The students can now read to the end of page 10.

- *Why is there tension between the narrator and Sam?*
- *Have you ever been in a similar situation?*

The students can now read the rest of the story.

- *How does Sam's character change during the story?*

Discuss the importance of using safety equipment and following the rules when taking part in an extreme sport.