

Spoiled by Oil

by Mandy Hager

Summary

A girl records her experiences in a diary while on vacation with her father, who works as a wildlife officer. When an oil spill threatens hundreds of auks, she reluctantly helps out. Through the rescue effort, she gains a new respect for her father's work, the wildlife he protects, and herself.

Features of the Text

- First-person narrative
- Character development
- Sequence of events
- Diary format and language
- Theme of developing empathy and respect
- Simple past tense
- Linking words relating to time – *this morning, finally, tomorrow, this afternoon*

Purpose

Spoiled by Oil can be used for the following purposes:

- introducing the ideas and vocabulary in the associated nonfiction title;
- exploring character development;
- confirming and revising predictions.

Following Up

The students can:

- use the blackline master on page 73 to analyze how events in the story change the main character
- create a timeline of the main character's life after the oil spill
- rewrite the journal from the father's perspective
- research the impact of oil spills on the environment

Guided Reading Summary

Introducing the text

Look at the cover together.

- *What are some of the things that could be "Spoiled by Oil?"*
- *What do you know about the impact of oil spills on the environment?*

Reading and discussing the text

Draw a Venn diagram on the board. Label the circles "Before" and "After." Explain that narratives often show a character's development over time. Ask the students to read to the end of page 5 and look for evidence of the main character's personality.

- *What kind of person is she? What's important to her?*

Record the students' responses in the first circle.

Discuss how the girl's character or attitude might change. Ask the students to read to the end of the story, thinking about the change in the main character.

- *How has the main character changed as a result of her experiences?*
- *What aspects of her personality don't change?*

Use the students' responses to complete the Venn diagram.