

Snake Country

by Rebecca Green

Summary

When Kim goes off the trail on a class field trip, she gets bitten by a snake. Luckily for her, Natalie knows about snakes and can identify if the snake that bit her is venomous.

Features of the Text

- Narrative with orientation, problem, climax, and resolution
- Setting of class field trip to a national park
- Factual, scientific information

Purpose

Snake Country can be used for the following purposes:

- introducing the ideas and vocabulary in the associated nonfiction title;
- exploring the relationships between characters;
- making and confirming or revising predictions;
- exploring factual information in a fiction text.

Guided Reading Summary

Introducing the text

Explain to the students that this story allows them to make and revise predictions about the characters. Tell the students that you want them to think about how the characters relate to one another and to make predictions about how this may change.

Reading and discussing the text

Ask the students to read to the end of page 5 and make predictions about the characters.

- *How do you think Natalie would feel on page 2? Why do you think that?*
- *What sort of relationship will develop between Jasmine and Natalie? What about Kim? Why do you think that?*

Have the students read to the end of page 9.

- *What factual information appears in the text?*
- *What do you predict might happen between the girls?*

The students can now read to the end of the story.

- *Were your predictions correct?*
- *Do you think the ending was believable? Why/why not?*

Discuss the factual information in the text.

- *How did you recognize the factual information?*
- *What would make you think the facts are probably true?* (convincing plot, accurate information)

Following Up

The students can:

- use the blackline master on page 55 to evaluate the actions and reactions of the characters in the story
- research a reptile of their choice
- create a poster outlining the rules for trips into a national park.