

Not now, Brody

VIPERS worksheet

Before reading

- What does the title of the story refer to?
- What might this story be about?

For the prediction questions, stop at the indicated point for each question.

Vocabulary

1. What is meant by 'lord it over'?
2. Find an informal expression that means 'collapse'.
3. Define 'verminous'.
4. Explain what 'appeal to' means in the context, 'It was no use appealing to the other supervisors.'
5. What does 'disruption' mean?
6. Find a synonym for 'assessed' or 'weighed up'.
7. Define 'sinuous'.
8. What does 'strident' mean?
9. Find a formal word for 'panic'.
10. Find a synonym for 'deadly'.

Inference

1. Do the other members of staff at the school think Mrs Wilson is reasonable? How do you know?
2. How does Mr Pewsey feel about Mrs Wilson? Find evidence in the text to support your answer.
3. Why doesn't Mrs Wilson believe Brody when he tells her about the tiger? Pick out examples from the story to explain why this isn't surprising.
4. Are the children frightened by what is happening to Mrs Wilson after they have all come indoors? Find the part of the story that shows this.
5. Why does Brody think that everyone will say at Mrs Wilson's funeral that she is really very nice? Is he right?

Prediction

- *Stop at the line, 'The willows were in full leaf ... and the air was still and hot.'*
What might be going to happen?
- *Stop at the paragraph ending, 'zoo staff had gone.'*
Who or what might be the 'very unusual visitor inside the school grounds'?
- *Stop at the paragraph ending, 'by providing a more appealing meal prospect.'*
What do you think is going to happen next?
- *Stop at the line, 'Mrs Wilson spun on her heel and stomped off up the field to the tunnel.'*
Do you think the tiger will eat Mrs Wilson or not?

Explain

1. Why does Mrs Wilson treat children who fall over so harshly?
2. Why do all the children get a half day off, a fortnight after this story takes place?
3. Why does Brody approach the willow tunnel when Rashida is running away?
4. Why does Brody try to summon Mrs Wilson in a whisper to begin with?
5. What is a sedative and what does it do?

Retrieval

1. Why does Brody's mum think Mrs Wilson is nice?
2. Does Brody have any older or younger siblings?
3. What is the headteacher called?
4. What is the name of Brody's school?
5. Which children are first to discover the tiger?
6. Who is Mrs Wilson telling off when Brody tries to get her attention?
7. How old is Brody's village?
8. Why could the tiger not return to the zoo?

Summarise

- Describe Mrs Wilson in three words. Explain your choices with evidence from the text.
- Summarise the story in no more than ten words.