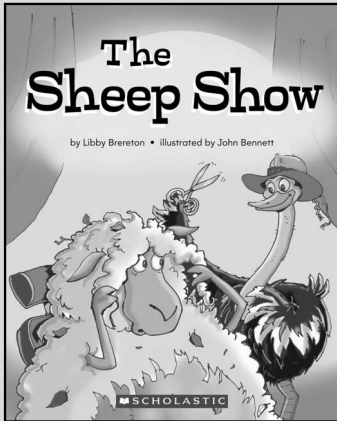


The Sheep Show



The Sheep Show Teachers' Notes

Learning objective: Year 1, 7c: Make predictions showing an understanding of ideas, events and characters

Key words: lived, shearer, busy, splashed, behind, pictures

Cross-curricular/theme links: Farming

Genre: Fiction

NC level: Approximately Level 1B-1A

Assessment: AF3, Level 1: Reasonable inference at a basic level

Word count: 503

Getting started

Look together at the cover and read the title and blurb. Ask: 'Why do you think a sheep might be afraid to have his wool cut? What do you think might happen when the famous shearer comes to the farm?' Share predictions, and make sure that the children understand that sheep shearers cut off sheeps' wool and that this doesn't hurt the sheep – it helps them to stay cool in the summer.

Guided reading

Pages 2-3: Ask: 'What type of character do you think Jake is? Why might he be afraid to have his wool cut?'

Pages 4-10: On page 10, ask: 'How do you think Jake feels about his long, messy wool now? What are the drawbacks with having such long wool?'

Pages 11-13: Ask the children what they think might be going on in the barn. What do they think will happen next?

Pages 14-15: Can the children predict which sheep Legs will pick on?

Pages 16-18: Ask: 'Do you think Jake will say yes to Legs cutting his wool?'

Pages 19-22: What do the children think Jake's new look will be like? Will he be pleased?

Pages 23-24: Do the children think Jake has changed his mind now? Will he be happy to have his wool cut from now on?

Speaking and listening

- Ask the children to put Jake in the hot-seat. The child in role as Jake should answer questions from the others, about how he felt at different points in the story.

After reading

Use these questions to help children talk about the book.

- What problem did Jake have at the start of the story?
- How did Legs persuade him to change his mind?
- How do you think Jake felt at the end of the story? Did he feel pleased that he had been brave enough to get his wool cut?

Reading into writing

Ask the children to design a fabulous new look for Jake. They could present it in the form of an advert to persuade other sheep to have their wool cut in the same style!

Book quiz for children

- 1 What excuses does Jake give for not getting his wool cut, at the start of the story?
- 2 Why does Jake's long wool end up messy?
- 3 What does Jake look like after Legs has cut his wool?

Support for less confident readers

You could show the children a video clip of sheep being shorn, to help them understand the context for this story. There are many such videos available on the internet – try YouTube for example.

Extension for more confident readers

The children could practise reading the story out loud with plenty of expression. A group of children could then read the story to a younger class, or at assembly.