

Level 2-3

How Bear Lost His Tail

Workbook

Teacher's Guide and Answer Key

Teacher's Guide

A. Summary

1. Book Summary

How Bear Lost His Tail is a legend about a prideful bear that talks about his tail too much and annoys the other animals.

Bear was very proud of his tail. He talked about it all the time. The animals did not like to hear about Bear's tail. So, Fox had an idea.

Fox cut a hole in the ice and caught a lot of fish. Fox pretended that he caught all the fish with his tail. Bear wanted to try it. Fox told Bear to go to a part of the lake that was not deep. Bear cut a hole in the ice and put his tail into the water. Fox told Bear he would wait behind the tree. He laughed at Bear. Then he ate his fish and went home.

Bear sat very still all night long. It snowed a lot. The snow covered Bear.

In the morning, Fox found Bear asleep under a layer of snow. Fox yelled for Bear to pull his tail out of the hole. Bear jumped and his tail snapped off in the ice! Fox laughed and laughed, but Bear was very angry.

That is why bears do not have tails today. It is also why they do not like foxes and why they make sad noises in the woods.

2. Section Summary

► **Pages 6-11:** Long ago, Bear had a beautiful tail. He talked about it a lot. The other animals did not like that. Fox made a plan to teach Bear a lesson. One day, Fox caught a lot of fish. He told Bear that he caught the fish with his tail. Bear believed him and wanted to try it with his tail.

► **Pages 12-15:** Fox took Bear to another part of the lake. Bear cut a hole in the ice and put his tail in the water. Fox told him not to move or think. Fox went behind a tree and laughed at Bear. Then he ate his fish and went home.

► **Pages 16-20:** Fox returned in the morning. Bear was covered in snow. Fox yelled at Bear to pull his tail out of the water. Bear jumped up, and his tail broke off in the ice. Bear was very angry. This is why, today, Bears do not like foxes, and they do not have tails.

B. Background and Themes

★ **Pride:** It is acceptable to be proud of yourself, but you should not boast to others about how great or how beautiful you are. It will make them angry, and they might try to hurt you in some way. Bear was proud of his tail. He bragged about it all the time. The other animals were irritated with him. That made them want to teach Bear a lesson.

★ **Revenge:** Some people try to get revenge on others for doing something annoying or mean. Fox got revenge on Bear because he talked about his tail too much. Now Bear does not have a tail to brag about.

★ **Being Gullible:** Some people believe everything others tell them. They do not question what they hear. Those people can be taken advantage of very easily. Bear was very gullible. He believed Fox's story about catching fish with his tail. Bear should have used common sense to figure out that Fox was tricking him.

★ **Self-centeredness:** When we only pay attention to ourselves, we do not see what is happening around us or how our actions affect others. Bear was very self-centered. He only thought about himself and his tail. If he paid attention to others, he would have known that they did not like to hear about his tail all the time.

★ **Pranks:** Pranks are fun and can make us laugh. However, they are usually more fun for the one playing the trick than the one being tricked. Fox played a trick on Bear. He thought it was very funny. But Bear did not like it at all. He lost his tail because of the trick.

Answer Key

Part A. Story Focus

Before You Read

(Answers may vary.)

► Introduction

1. They are a group of people living in North America before the Europeans came.
2. They live in New York and in parts of Canada.
3. We can learn why bears don't have tails.

► Characters

1. Bear	2. Fox
<u>proud</u> <u>not smart</u> <u>no tail</u>	<u>sneaky</u> <u>clever</u> <u>laughs</u>

While You Read

(Answers may vary.)

► Beginning: Pages 6-11

A. Preview Questions

1. It is about a fox and a bear going fishing together.
2. I know the story called The Clever Fox.
3. He might not like how much Bear talks about his tail.

B. Review Questions

1. He was proud of it.
2. He wanted to know how Fox caught so many fish.
3. He said he caught them with his tail.

► Middle: Pages 12-15

A. Preview Questions

1. It is about Bear trying to catch fish with his tail.
2. I have been ice fishing. I went ice fishing on Brush Lake.
I have never been ice fishing. I would like to go ice fishing on Lake Michigan.
3. I think it is OK to play small tricks on others as long as no one gets hurt because it is fun.

B. Review Questions

1. He told Bear to cut a hole in the ice and put his tail in it.
2. He told Bear not to think because the fish could hear him think.
3. He waited behind the trees.

► End: Pages 16-20

A. Preview Questions

1. It is about how Bear lost his tail.
2. I think they look better with short tails.
3. I would try to stay calm and slowly back away from it.

B. Review Questions

1. He was sleeping.
2. Bear jumped up and broke his tail.
3. They might make sad noises because they miss their long tails.

Mini Quiz

a. Laughter is the best medicine.

→ Laughing always makes us feel better.

b. Pride goes before a fall.

→ When people are full of pride and brag about themselves, they are likely to fail or fall back down to reality. They usually fail because they are so focused on themselves that they cannot see what is going on around them.

c. A rolling stone gathers no moss.

→ Someone who moves from place to place does not have many friends, possessions, or responsibilities. They are not tied down.

After You Read

(Answers may vary.)

► Pattern Practice

4. A: Can I watch?

B: Yes.

5. A: Can I draw?

B: Maybe later.

► Challenge

1. It was winter.

2. He was proud of his tail.

3. He was trying not to think.

4. It was frozen in the ice.

Part B. Skill Focus

Vocabulary Preview

A.

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. j / behind | 2. h / frozen |
| 3. i / noise | 4. f / snap |
| 5. d / winter | 6. c / answer |
| 7. a / fox | 8. b / part |
| 9. e / turn | 10. g / jump |

B.

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. a | 2. a |
| 3. b | 4. a |
| 5. b | 6. b |
| 7. a | |

Reading Comprehension

► Beginning: Pages 6-11

A.

1. T 2. F 3. F 4. T 5. F

B.

1. Fox
2. Bear
3. Fox
4. Bear

C.

1. d 2. b 3. d 4. a 5. c

► Middle: Pages 12-15

A.

1. F 2. F 3. T 4. T 5. F

B.

1. a 2. d 3. c 4. b

C.

1. a 2. b 3. a 4. b 5. c

► End: Pages 16-20

A.

1. T 2. F 3. T 4. T 5. F

B.

1. d 2. b 3. a 4. c

C.

1. c 2. a 3. b 4. b 5. b

Think and Write

1. talk
2. Clever
3. today
4. Happy
5. long ago
6. fish
7. woods
8. tail
9. catch
10. Sad

Vocabulary Review

1. Bear was proud of his tail.
2. Fox caught a lot of fish.
3. Fox put his tail in the hole.
4. Bear tried not to think or move.
5. Fox waited behind the trees.
6. Bear made a hole in another part of the lake.
7. Bear was sleeping under the snow.
8. Bear's tail snapped off.
9. Fox rolled on the frozen lake.
10. Bears do not like foxes.

Summary

A.

4	2
1	3

B.

1. Bear talked a lot about his tail.
2. Fox had an idea.
3. Bear did not move all night.
4. Bear jumped up and snapped off his tail.

Book Report

Story e → a → d → b → c