

The Stolen Spear



SCHEME OF WORK

PERFECT FOR:

Students aged 7+, a thrilling Stone Age adventure; role play and drama; writing instructions; exploring relationships between characters; researching Stone Age tools, foods and beliefs; designing and making Stone Age jewellery; joining a brave boy on a journey over the wild waters to a wider, ancient world on the cusp of a new age.

KEY FOR CROSS-CURRICULAR OBJECTIVES:

English: Reading Comprehension; Poetry; Creative Writing; Writing to Entertain and Inform

Drama, Speaking and Listening

Art & Design Technology

Music

History

ICT and Computing

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WEEK 1 (CHAPTERS 1–5): STOLEN

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVES

Reading: Comprehension

- Predict what might happen.
- Draw inferences, such as inferring characters' feelings.
- Identify how language and structure contribute to meaning.

History: Stone Age

- Conduct research into Stone Age settlements.
- Order and understand the main events that occurred during the Stone Age period.

Design Technology & Art

- Create a 3D model of a Stone Age settlement, using a variety of materials.

ICT and Computing

- Design an informative presentation, including animations and slide transitions.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Before beginning, spend some time exploring the map at the front of the book. What do you notice? Do any of the locations mentioned interest you? Why? What role do you think the various places will play in the story?
2. Wolf flinches when his father talks to him – what might this suggest about their relationship? (page 10)
3. Read to the end of page 20. How does the author engage the reader? Is it effective? Do you want to read on? Why?
4. Using the description on page 23 and your own research, draw and label a picture of an auk. What can you find out about these birds?
5. Wolf's fingers are trembling – what might he be thinking and feeling at this point in the story? Why? (page 28)
6. The author describes the fog as 'reaching out like skeletal fingers'. What image does this create in your mind? (page 30)
7. Why do you think Crow asks Wolf to change the subject? Why does she pull her fur cloak tighter around her? How is she feeling? (page 41)
8. Imagine you are Wolf on pages 50 and 51 – what can you see, hear, taste, touch and smell? Make a list.
9. Use a Venn Diagram to compare and contrast Crow and Wolf – how are they similar and different? Use evidence from the story so far to support your ideas.
10. What are your first impressions of Wolf? Do you like him? How is he different to other people in the settlement?

EXTRA ACTIVITIES

Create a timeline showing the main events that occurred during the Stone Age era. You may wish to include:

- reference to the Paleolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic eras
- the development of tools
- how houses and farming changed during these periods.

To get an idea of what a Stone Age setting would look like, spend some time looking at pictures of Skara Brae in Scotland. Work in small groups to create a 3D model of Skara Brae, using a range of natural materials. How can you join your materials to ensure your model is sturdy? You may also wish to add some museum cards around your model and include interesting facts about Skara Brae.

Using the information on page 13 and your own research, create a PowerPoint presentation to inform people about Stone Age food. Include animations, interesting slide transitions and sound clips.

WEEK 2 (CHAPTERS 6–10): THE JOURNEY BEGINS

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVES	COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS	EXTRA ACTIVITIES
Reading: Comprehension - Use dictionaries to understand words in context. - Retrieve information. Art and Design Technology - Plan, design and create a piece of Stone Age jewellery. Writing to Inform - Plan and write a set of instructions, using imperative verbs. - Include brackets to add detail. Music - Use your voice and instruments with control and expression to create a magical soundscape.	1. Write a definition of these words from Chapter 6: <i>insult</i>, <i>doomed</i>, <i>bartering</i>. Now use them in a sentence of your own. 2. What does Father give Wolf on page 67? Why does he do this? What might Father be thinking and feeling? 3. The author describes the rock as looking like a 'giant spear stuck in the ground'. What image does this create in your mind? How else could you describe the rock? (page 74) 4. Imagine you are Wolf on pages 76 and 77. Make a list of everything you can see, hear, taste, touch and smell. What questions would you like to ask Wolf about this part in his journey? 5. Find and copy a word on page 76 that means 'ridicule'. 6. Describe how Wolf is feeling on page 78 and explain your word choice. What do you think has happened to Wolf? 7. Who does Wolf meet on page 81? What are your first impressions of them? Do you trust them? 8. Use the information on page 82 to draw and label a picture of the farmer's house. How is it different to Wolf's home? 9. Read to the end of page 84. What do you think has happened to Wolf? Why has he crashed to the ground? Does the title of the next chapter give you any clues? 10. Which part of Chapter 10 did you find the most exciting? Which part did you find the most shocking? Explain why, using evidence from the text.	Spend some time looking at and sketching some Stone Age jewellery. Using the description of Crow's necklace and your own ideas, plan and design your own piece of jewellery. Use clay to create your necklace, considering what colour you will use and how to create a textured effect. On page 64, the author describes the stages Wolf goes through to build a boat. Using this information, and your own research about Stone Age tools, create a set of instructions detailing how to make a boat. Consider what equipment you will need, and remember to include imperative verbs and bullet points. You could also use brackets to add tips to your instructions! Look at page 70 when the shaman sings the Moon Song. Create a magical, ethereal soundscape to accompany this scene, using your voices and body percussion. You could even use some tuned and untuned instruments to represent the sounds. Next, use a Graphic Score, with symbols, to show your composition.

WEEK 3 (CHAPTERS 11–16): I FIND ME

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVES	COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS	EXTRA ACTIVITIES
Reading: Comprehension - Identify themes in the story. - Create character profiles. - Retrieve and summarise information from a passage and use it to inform writing. Design Technology & Art - Explore the history of cave paintings. - Create a cave painting. - Create a 3D model map of the setting. Poetry - Explore a poem, discussing how it links to the story. - Use the structure of a poem to write in role. Creative Writing - Write a sequel based on the story, using the style and language features employed by the author.	1. Summarise the events in Chapter 11 in six sentences. Now try to summarise it in three. Now one. 2. How does the author create a sense of tension on page 96? Can you describe how you felt when you read this passage? 3. Why does Sparrow think 'it is the result of kindness'? Do you agree with him? (page 104) 4. Read page 110. What do you think Wolf has just realized? What might he be thinking and feeling? 5. Look at page 112. Role-play a conversation between Wolf and Crow, where Wolf tells her the story of the missing spear. 6. Study the illustration on page 121. How does it help you understand the characters' feelings? Is this what you imagined the burial mound to look like? 7. What does the adverb 'gently' tell you about Father? How has he changed? 8. How has Wolf changed and developed as the story has progressed? What do you think he has learnt over the course of his adventure? Use evidence from the text to support your ideas. 9. The main theme in this story is 'bravery'. Do you agree? Why? Why not? Which characters show bravery? Can you think of any other important themes? 10. Describe each of these characters in the story using one word only and explain your word choice: <i>Wolf, Crow, Shadow, Rain, Bear, Rock, Hawk</i>.	Explore the cave paintings found in Lascaux. Now, choose a favourite scene from the story and recreate it in the style of a cave painting. You could use charcoal or tea-stain your paper to give it an ancient look. You could even use natural materials, such as berries, to create paint! Using map at the beginning of the book, create a 3D model of the setting. You could use a range of techniques, including papier mache, then use your model to retell the story. Spend some time exploring the poem 'Dad' by Berlie Doherty. Discuss what you like and dislike about it and how it links to this story. Imagine you are Wolf and write your own Dad-themed poem in a similar style. In small groups, discuss and predict what might happen next in the sequel, which is called <i>The Whispering Stones</i>. Use a storyboard to plan your ideas and then write the opening to your sequel, thinking about how to emulate the author's writing style.