

Fluent Lesson Plan

How Bear Lost his Tail

Fluent Level 18

Lesson rationale

The students will

- Summarize the events of the story
- Develop a characterization
- Identify the main idea of the story

Before the lesson

Read and familiarize yourself with the story and its main idea. Prepare any materials and resources you may need for the lesson.

Reading and thinking

Talk to the students about the comprehension strategies set for this lesson.

Show the students the cover of the book. Together read the title and the statement saying that this is a folktale from another culture that has been retold by the writer. Discuss what this means with the students and develop connections they have with the folktale genre.

Turn to the back cover. Ask the students to focus on the illustration and the caption that accompanies it.

Again, through discussion, identify the characteristics that are traditionally given to foxes or wolves in folktales.

Read the first two pages.

Ask the students to tell you about the bear in the story. You may wish to record these ideas to provide support for the follow-up activity.

Read pages four and five.

Praise the students on their reading, offering guidance if necessary.

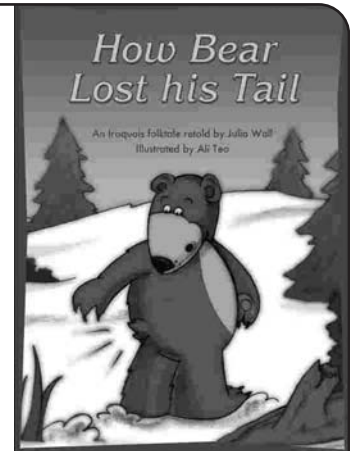
Ask the students, *What are the most important things that happen on these pages?*

Read pages six and seven.

Ask the students, *What has happened now in the story? Is there any new information we've learnt about the bear?* Add these to the list if you need to.

Read pages eight to 12 inclusively. Praise the students for their reading. Again ask the students the same questions as before, *What has happened now in the story? Is there any new information we've learnt about the bear?* Then ask, *What do you think will happen next?*

Read the remaining pages.



Discuss the story with the students. Work towards isolating the information that is vital to summarizing the story. Discuss the bear's character and how losing his tail may affect him, how he may feel and how he may change because of what has happened. Discuss the fox in the same way.

More thinking

Talk with the students about folktales and how often they tell a story with a message for the people reading or listening to them. Discuss what the meaning or purpose of this story could be. There are a number of follow-up activities possible:

- Summarize the story identifying the main events. This could be done using illustrations, writing or a combination of each (BLM 1).
- Present a character description of the bear, again using a combination of illustrations, words, captions or written paragraphs. A number of the BLM would be useful formats for this task.