

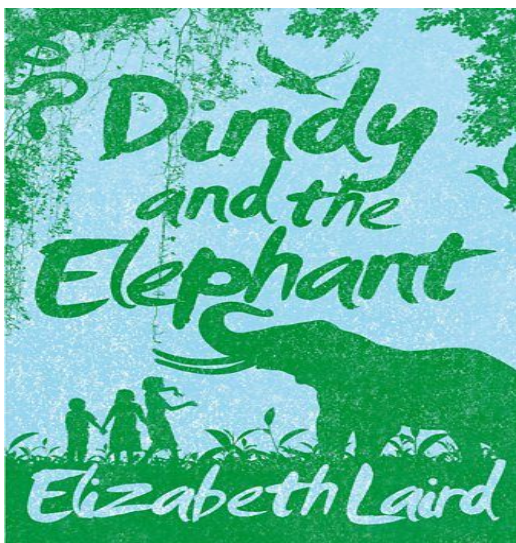
Wednesday 1st July 2020

Guided reading – WALT - explain our opinion about a character.

Happy Wednesday little readers. Today we are going to use the novel *Dindy and the Elephant* to explain your opinion about a character, summarising information and writing in role as a character.

Here is the blurb to give you an overview of the story -

Terrified by wild animals and snubbed by the local children, Dindy starts to realise how little she knows about India, even though it's the only place she has ever called home. But her life is about to be turned upside down as her father tells her they are leaving India for good.



Read extract 1 and complete activity 1 below.

Extract 1

Something was moving on the ground behind him, across the very bit of the path we had just come down. Something long and thin and grey, that slithered from one side of the path to the other.

I grabbed Pog's hand.

'Come on! Run!'

He tried to snatch his hand away.

'I won't. I'm going home.'

He turned as if to go back up the path. 'Pog, you can't! There's a snake. A cobra! I saw it!'

And then we were both running, crashing through the bushes, tearing our clothes, scratching our bare legs, until we almost fell out onto the wide track below that ran down to the stream.

Pog was crying. 'I told you we shouldn't have come. I told you! I hate you, Dindy! We might have been bitten to death!'

'Yes, but we weren't, were we?' I was feeling so guilty that I needed to sound extra brave to cover it up. 'And it mightn't have been a cobra. It might have been one of the harmless ones.'

Focus on this part of extract 1 and answer the question below.

Pog was crying. 'I told you we shouldn't have come. I told you! I hate you, Dindy! We might have been bitten to death!'

Do you think Pog is fair to Dindy here?

Yes, no or unsure? Explain your choice using evidence from the text.

Use the following questions to help you make your decision.

- Is it Dindy's fault?
- Should Pog say that he hates Dindy?

If you choose 'Yes' or 'No', you will need *two pieces of evidence* that support Yes or No.

If you choose 'Unsure', you will need *one piece of evidence from 'Yes' and one from 'No'*.

You might want to organise your answer like this:

I chose...

First Piece Of Evidence	Second Piece Of Evidence
Evidence -	Evidence -

TASK 2 -

Read extract 2 and try activity 2 below.

Extract 2

The four working elephants were standing in the shade. They were chained by the back legs to huge posts. They stood quite still, their trunks limp and drooping, as if they were resting. Only their ears flapped from time to time as they tried to shake off the flies that buzzed around their eyes.

Pog and I had seen the estate's tame working elephants quite often before. They weren't usually at this end of the tea plantation, but sometimes, when they were, Daddy would drive us down in his car as a treat to look at them. We'd even ridden on an old one once. I'd been a bit scared of falling off, but Pog had loved it. He'd shouted so loudly that the mahout (the man who looked after the elephants) had to tell Daddy to keep him quiet in case the elephant got upset.

'Why don't we shout and see if anyone will come?' I said.

'You don't want to scare the elephants,' said Nikhil. 'And, anyway, we don't shout. It's rude.'

I bit my lip. Daddy was always shouting at people. Mother shouted at Sunderam all the time too.

Activity 2

WALT - summarise information

Think about what new information you know now, what has the writer told you.

If a friend who hadn't read this extract asked you what happened in it, what five things would you tell them?

Have a look back through the text and jot down some important information – it may be an event, a theme, a feeling.

Then number your five pieces of information 1-5 with number one being the most important.

You could share this with somebody at home. Or even better, you could ask somebody at home to do this too and then check each other's to see if you have chosen any of the same information.

Example - I might start with -

1. The tame elephants were chained to the huge posts.
2. -
3. -
4. -
5. -