

Imagine That! Stories

Visualizing
and
Verbalizing[®]
For Language Comprehension and Thinking



LIFE
SCIENCE

The word "LIFE" is rendered in large, orange, block letters. Each letter contains a white silhouette of a biological organism: 'L' has a plant with flowers, 'I' has a dog, 'F' has a bee, 'E' has a bird, and the final 'E' has a fish. The word "SCIENCE" is written in white, block letters below "LIFE".

A Nanci Bell Book

Introduction:

The mysterious, the unusual, the unexplained... Imagery is the medium through which language that describes our diverse world is revealed in all its detail and complexity.

The *Imagine That!* series provides nonfiction stories with which to practice building imagery for oral and written language comprehension. These challenging, high-imagery stories introduce true and unusual topics for students to visualize, including natural disasters, legends, unique animals, odd plants, mysteries, fascinating phenomena, and people of great achievement. Each story is presented in language appropriate to the grade level, and the content is sure to capture the interest of students and instructors alike.

The wondrous world of nature is waiting. Let's fly.

Nanci Bell
2017

How to Use *Imagine That! Stories*:

The *Imagine That! Stories* can be used with any program of instruction to develop imagery for language comprehension. They can also be used specifically with the *Visualizing and Verbalizing (V/V)* program. These stories give students practice visualizing the big picture, the *gestalt*, and should be used when doing the steps that develop concept imagery as a base for critical thinking.

While the stories have been arranged in sections that align with specific steps of V/V, all *Imagine That! Stories* can be used with any of the following steps:

- Sentence by Sentence
- Sentence by Sentence with Higher Order Thinking (HOT) Questions
- Multiple Sentence with HOT Questions
- Whole Paragraph with HOT Questions
- Paragraph by Paragraph with HOT Questions
- Whole Page with HOT Questions

1 The Diving Fox



The fluffy white arctic fox sneaks along the hard-packed snow. One of her two large pointed ears twitches at the sound of something rustling deep beneath her paws. The white fox leaps into the air and dives face-first into the cold powder. She flails her back legs and shifts in the air until she pops out of the dense snow. Her sharp teeth grip a tasty mouse.

From what you pictured...

1. Why might it be important that the fox is white?
2. What do you think caused the rustling sound?
3. Do you think the fox has very good hearing? Why or why not?
4. Do you think there is much food for the fox above the snow? Why or why not?
5. Why do you think the fox *dives* face-first into the snow? Why not dig slowly?

2 Bodysnatching Birds



A female emperor penguin is one of the few birds that is desperate to be a mother. If her egg does not hatch or her chick dies, a mother looks around for a hatched chick to feed. She'll peck and fight the other mother until she has the new chick under her feathers. But soon, the fickle kidnapper realizes this chick doesn't smell and feel like her first. The stolen chick is left in the cold.

From what you pictured...

1. A mother emperor penguin hunts for two months to feed her newly hatched chick. Why do you think she might steal a chick if she can't find hers?
2. Do you think the other mother puts up much of a fight? Why or why not?
3. Why do you think the stolen chick is soon left in the cold?
4. Do you think a chick wants to be stolen? Why or why not?

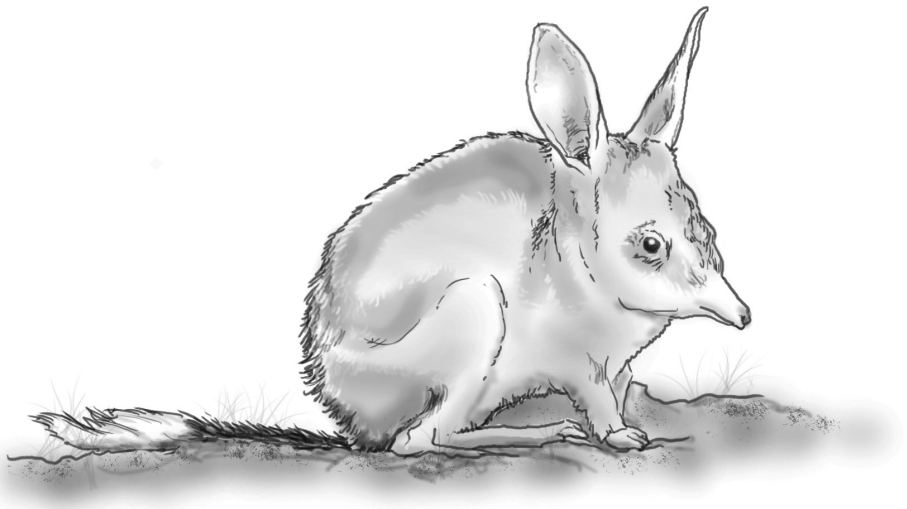


29 Bilby

The endangered bilby is a rare sight to see. The little gray marsupial sleeps all day in her underground burrow while predators struggle to find her. At night, her tall rabbit-like ears perk up. When she knows the coast is clear she sifts through the desert's dirt with strong claws. Any baby bilbies stay safe and clean in their mother's rear-facing pouch. The bilby's long snout sniffs the air and pokes around for juicy bugs to munch on. Then she darts back into her den before the sun rises again.

From what you pictured...

1. Why do you think the bilby is a rare sight to see?
2. Why do you think predators struggle to find the bilby?
3. How do you think the bilby's ears help her?
4. Why do you think the bilby has strong claws?
5. Most marsupials have a front pouch. Why do you think the bilby's pouch is *backward* facing?





48 Dragon's Blood

The blood-red sap of the dragon's blood tree is a treasure to both doctors and medicine men. This tree's branches reach up from its thick brown trunk to form an umbrella of green leaves. A medicine man cuts the tree's trunk and a bright red sap oozes out into his bowl. He rubs the sticky sap into a cut on a young boy's arm. The sap's natural antiseptic makes a foamy pink lather, often called a "liquid bandage."

The unique tree is native to Socotra, an island in the Indian Ocean. Unlike rubber or syrup trees, the tree can't be tapped to drain sap over and over. The cells that make the sap in this tree do not renew. The tree has to be cut, and it gives less sap each time. If the slow-growing trunk is cut too many times, the tree will wither and die. Some people harvest the entire tree at once. Others let the tree live out its natural life and use the sap only when they need it.

From what you pictured...

1. Why do you think the tree is called "Dragon's Blood"?
2. Why do you think the medicine man collects the sap?
3. Why do you think some people call the sap a "liquid bandage"?
4. Why do you think it is important that humans know the cells of this sap do not renew?
5. How is this story an example of symbiosis? Explain.