

Instructional Overview

Magic Tree House: Dinosaurs Before Dark
By: Mary Pope Osborne
Grade Level: 2 / Guided Reading Level: M

Book Club

Instructional Focus:
Retelling and Summarizing

Background:
A key component of reading comprehension is a reader's ability to use their own words to retell a story and summarize key events. As students begin reading longer texts, they must distinguish between major and minor characters and events, sequence important events, and explain how key details affect the outcome of the story.

In the first book of the Magic Tree House series, *Dinosaurs Before Dark*, the small cast of characters, interesting events, and clear problem and solution provide readers practice with identifying key components in order to retell and summarize the story.

Instructional Overview:

Meeting #1
Set Expectations and Introduce Retelling and Summarizing

Meeting #2 (Chapters 1 – 3)
Identify Major and Minor Characters

Meeting #3 (Chapters 4 – 6)
Identify Major and Minor Events

Meeting #4 (Chapters 7 – 9)
Sequence Major Events and Describe Character Response to Events

Meeting #5 (Chapter 10)
Analyze the Effect of a Different Event Response on the Outcome of the Story

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Instructional Focus



Description of the Instructional Focus



List of Materials and Preparation



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Materials and Preparation:

- Determine which students will participate in the *Magic Tree House: Dinosaurs Before Dark* Book Club (4-6 students)
- Gather copies of *Magic Tree House: Dinosaurs Before Dark* by Mary Pope Osborne (1 per student)
- Prepare copies of the Book Club Calendar (1 per student)
- Prepare copies of the Expectations for Book Club (1 per student)
- Prepare copies of the Book Club Reading Response Board (1 per student)
- Prepare Reader's Notebooks (1 per student)
- Prepare Retelling Graphic Organizer
- Prepare Major and Minor Story Event Mix-Up Activity (1 per pair of students)
- Prepare First, Then, Next, Last Activity (1 per student)
- Prepare Summarizing Graphic Organizer (1 per student)
- Prepare News Report Culminating Activity (1 per student)
- Gather Sticky Notes and Chart Paper (for use throughout Book Club)
- Optional: Prepare Vocabulary Resources (1 set per student)
- Optional: Prepare Student Self-Evaluation Forms (1 per student per meeting)
- Optional: Prepare Assessment Resources (1 set per student)

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