

COUNTDOWN

Title of Close Reading Text: Tracey the Gymnastic Snail

Learning Intention:

I am learning to read for understanding to identify key features of a story so that I can understand the message conveyed.

Success Criteria:

- I can read and understand the plot and characters
- I can identify and describe key text features used to convey emotion
- I can discuss and explain the message conveyed in a story

Reading	Text-Dependent Questions	Outcome:
<p>1st Reading What it says.</p>	<p>Read 'Tracey the Gymnastic Snail' as a class and discuss the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What activity does Tracey want to do? (She would like to join Madame Zelda's Gymnastics School) • Does Tracey's mother allow it? Why/Why not? (Tracey's mother does not allow Tracey to do gymnastics. She says that snails don't do gymnastics, they do slime) • How did the other insects respond when Tracey arrives at practice the first time? (Madame Zelda doesn't welcome Tracey and tells her to move along. The other insects murmur and giggle, it makes Tracey feel embarrassed) • Why do you think none of the other characters support Tracey's wish to be a gymnast? (The other characters don't think that Tracey can be a gymnast because she is a snail) 	<p>EN2-RECOM-01</p> <p>AC9E3LE02</p>

	<p>and they believe snails cannot and should not try gymnastics)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does Tracey do when the other insects have finished practice? (She tries the different gymnastics exercises including the balance beam and the twin bars). • When Tracey’s mother and Madame Zelda discover Tracey secretly doing gymnastic how do they respond? (Tracey’s mum says that snails don’t do gymnastics but Madame Zelda invites Tracey to join her school because she enjoys watching Tracey). • In the end does Tracey’ mother change her mind? (Tracey’s mother changes her mind when she sees Tracey doing gymnastics. We know this because at the end of the story she applauds Tracey for her efforts at gymnastics class) 	
<p>2nd Reading How it says it.</p>	<p>Dialogue is an important feature of the story. It helps readers understand character’s thoughts, opinions and feelings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight three important examples of dialogue in the story. Explain your choices. <p>Body language is another way an author can show a reader how a character is feeling. For each of the examples of body language, explain how the character is feeling based on their actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wow! thought Tracey, her antennae waving so wildly they almost got tangled. Gymnastics! • And with that, she rolled up deep inside her shell. • Tracey’s antennae drooped. 	<p>EN2-RECOM-01</p> <p>AC9E3LE02</p>
<p>3rd Reading What it means.</p>	<p>Prior to looking at the text a third time, explain to students that often stories for children and young people have an important message for the reader.</p> <p>On page 5, Tracey’s mother says ‘Tracey, snails are slow and good at staying in our shells,’ said her mum. ‘We’re</p>	<p>EN2-RECOM-01</p> <p>AC9E3LE02</p>

	<p>not built for tumbling and hanging upside down. Leave that to the spiders.</p> <p>Discuss the following question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How would the story be different if Tracey had listened to her mother and gone to Susie’s Sliding School for Snails and Slugs? (There wouldn’t be any excitement, because Tracey would just continue doing normal activities for a snail) • What would people learn from a story in which Tracey continued to do the acceptable and ordinary activities for snails? (The message this kind of story would send would suggest that people should stay in their comfort zone and not try anything different or challenge themselves. It would not be an inspiring message) <p>Now read from ‘She turned. There was her mother...’ until ‘if Tracey would like to join the school.’ on page 9.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Madame Zelda welcomes Tracey into her gymnastics school, even though she has never had a snail as a student before. Why is it important for there to be a character like Madame Zelda in the story? (Madame Zelda is important because she enables and encourages Tracey to try something new and different. Without a supportive character, Tracey might have listened when her mother said again that snails don’t do gymnastics) <p>At the end of the story, Tracey is accepted into the gymnastics school and receives applause at the end of her routine.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the message conveyed to readers in the story ‘Tracey the gymnastic snail?’ (Readers are encouraged to try new things, to get out of their comfort zones and not to be defined by their background or what other people say. Through reading about Tracey, readers can feel empowered. They can also see the example set by Madame Zelda who welcomes Tracey and see that supporting others is a powerful and kind thing to do. 	
	<p>How do you know this? What evidence do you have to support that?</p>	

General follow up questions for each of the readings:	Why do you think this? What examples can you find in the text?	
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