

ORBIT

Title of Close Reading Text: Finding El Dogado

Learning Intention: I am learning to use a range of reading comprehension and analysis techniques so that I can analyse authorial choices and their effect on readers.

Success Criteria:

- I can recount key events and characters in a text
- I can locate textual evidence to support my ideas
- I can connect personally with the model text
- I can make predictions

Reading	Text-Dependent Questions	Outcome:
<p>1st Reading What it says.</p> <p>Key ideas and details</p>	<p>Read the opening two pages of the story, up to 'I bet you were the sort of pet dog who ran away with the ball, instead of chasing it.' On page 5.</p> <p>Who are the officers of the spaceship <i>Wild Rover</i>? They are a group of dogs who stole/borrowed the spaceship <i>Wild Rover</i> who have escaped Earth.</p> <p>What is their goal? (To find 'El Dogado' and 'explore this paradise for dogs and become famous throughout the Ages')</p> <p>Who is in charge? (Captain)</p> <p>What kind of leader is Captain? (Authoritative, bossy, grouchy)</p> <p>Continue reading the story, up until 'Dasher and Zapp chuckled.' On page 7.</p> <p>List all the information the author has revealed about the planet where the <i>Wild Rover</i> lands.</p>	<p>EN3-RECOM-01</p> <p>AC9E5LY05</p>

- hazy planet, streaked with white and blue.
- Misty letters floated over the planet
- grassy plain, with a stream and small clumps of trees.
- 'Good oxygen levels, Captain. No wind. Temperature 25°C. Local time, 10.24 am.
- No evidence of humans

How do the crew of the Wild Rover feel about a planet without humans? (They are pleased not to be with humans again after having some bad experiences such as Zapp's experience at a Dog show.)

What other information would you like to know?

(Students might like to have confirmation they are on El Dogado)

Continue reading the story until the end.

The wolf mentions the 'Great Torment' they are experiencing. Why is are the letters G and T in Great Torment capitalised?

(This is done for emphasis. It also signals that perhaps this is a very large-scale, long-term problem and the phrase the Great Torment has become a proper noun (a name) like 'The Great War' – World War One).

The wolf then goes on to say 'This is a planet of cursed canines.' What figurative language technique is used here? Why? (Alliteration. This emphasises the troubles that the wolves are experiencing.)

Look at the way the captain responds to this dialogue from the wolf:

The captain tilted his head, as if a fly was bothering him. 'Of course not. This is paradise. We're not fleeing because of a slight problem.

	<p>The captain uses the phrase ‘slight problem’ while the wolf uses the phrase ‘Great Torment.’ What is the effect of such contrasting views on the reader? (This strong difference of opinion about the planet creates suspense and leaves the reader on a cliffhanger, waiting for the next instalment of the story. The other dogs (especially Zapp) pick up on this and question whether they have actually found paradise).</p>							
<p>2nd Reading How it says it.</p> <p>Craft and Structure</p>	<p>Why does the author use words and phrases relating to dogs throughout the story? Highlight some examples. (This emphasises that the main characters of the story are dogs, the reader is given the perspective of dogs who has escaped their human owners. It also adds humour to the story and helps readers connect with the characters. Examples include: El Dogado, Canine, bones, barked, Wild Rover)</p> <p>Choose one example of dialogue for each of the following characters. When you make your choice, choose an example that provides information about this character’s personality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Captain • Bosun Gruff • Navigator Mac • Dasher • Zapp <p>For each example fill in the table below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="491 1361 1163 1559"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="491 1361 715 1480">Character</th> <th data-bbox="715 1361 938 1480">Dialogue</th> <th data-bbox="938 1361 1163 1480">What it tells us about the character</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="491 1480 715 1559"></td> <td data-bbox="715 1480 938 1559"></td> <td data-bbox="938 1480 1163 1559"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Look at the extract below:</p> <p><i>A deep throated growl came from the trees behind them, and the dogs froze. Dasher twisted around and came face to face with the amber eyes of a huge grey wolf. Several more stepped from the shadows, eyes glaring, teeth gleaming. ‘Well, well,’ said the lead wolf. ‘What do we have here then?’ Dasher froze. Her worst nightmare had come to life. She tried to snarl but her jaws would not move. (p. 8)</i></p>	Character	Dialogue	What it tells us about the character				<p>EN3-UARL-01</p> <p>AC9E5LY03</p>
Character	Dialogue	What it tells us about the character						

	<p>Complete the following tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight or underline the words and phrases that describe the sound and appearance of the wolf in this first encounter. • When describing the wolves, the author wants the reader to think the wolves are villains or enemies of the dogs. How did they create this impression? (The author is using stereotypical features of evil characters such as amber eyes glaring, growling, and the choice of wolf as the animal encountered. Readers have seen this before in other stories, so they know that the dogs might be in trouble). • Compare this initial dialogue from the wolf with the way that the dogs speak to one another. What is it in this dialogue that makes the wolf more threatening? What is it about the way that the dogs speak that make them seem harmless? (This choice of dialogue for the wolf is another stereotypical villain representation. It has been heard before and is recognised by readers as threatening. The dogs, throughout the story are often casual and comical in their language. They use exclamations like 'canine creepers.' It has a more jovial tone.) • Highlight or underline the response of the dogs to this encounter. (They froze) • How does the author create tension in this extract? (The inability for the dogs or Dasher to move slows the action down and creates tension.) 	
<p>3rd Reading</p> <p>What it means.</p>	<p>After investigating the characters and their representation through dialogue in the story, which character would you prefer to have in your own space exploration team? Why? Explain using evidence from the story.</p> <p>At the end of the story, the wolf says,</p>	<p>AC9E5LE02 EN3-UARL-01</p>

	<p><i>'This is a planet of cursed canines because ... look, I will bring the others. Tomorrow. You will see.'</i></p> <p>Explain the different perspectives the dogs and the wolves have about the planet they are on. Complete the table below using words and phrases from the story to support your ideas:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Dogs</th> <th>Wolves</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> <p>Suggested answers: Paradise, a place without humans</p> </td> <td> <p>Suggested answers: The wolf suggests they are on a cursed planet. They are hoping for someone to arrive and save them from their 'Great Torment')</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This is part one of a two-part story. Predict what might happen next. Use evidence from part 1 to support your prediction.</p>	Dogs	Wolves	<p>Suggested answers: Paradise, a place without humans</p>	<p>Suggested answers: The wolf suggests they are on a cursed planet. They are hoping for someone to arrive and save them from their 'Great Torment')</p>	
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<p>General follow up questions for each of the readings:</p>	<p>How do you know this? What evidence do you have to support that? Why do you think this? What examples can you find in the text?</p>					