

Guided reading

SECTION

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Tuffy. What kind of character do they think he is? What behaviour is he capable of? What trouble do the children predict that Tuffy will cause?

Can the children think of any reasons why Tuffy might want to come to the funeral? Is he really sorry? Is he trying show Ellie that he is sad too? Tuffy talks about it being in his nature to stalk birds and mice. Do the children think that this is true? Does Tuffy mean to cause Ellie and her family upset, or is it more a case of him not thinking about what he has done?

Thursday

This chapter sets up the action for the rest of the story. Ask the group to read from pages 10–13. Encourage them to sum up the reactions of each family member to Tuffy's newest gift (Thumper the rabbit). Who is most upset? Read the description of how the family clean up and restore dead Thumper to his former glory including the description of Ellie fluffing up Thumper.

How can we tell that Tuffy is proud of Ellie? Ask the children to look for clues (towards the end of the chapter) that tell us about Tuffy's feelings for Thumper. Is it likely that Tuffy would or could actually kill Thumper? Discuss Tuffy's reaction to Thumper once he is all spruced up. Does he sound guilty or upset? Can the children detect anything from this paragraph that might have some bearing on what really happened to Thumper?

Read the final section of the chapter from 'That's when I realized...' Can the children predict what crazy plan the family is about to put into place?

Friday and Still Friday

Read the first sentence together and then review what has happened to Thumper. Ask the children to think about why Ellie's parents have stayed up so late. Invite the group to read Chapter 5 'Friday' to themselves to the end of page 22. Why has Ellie's dad dressed all in black? How do the children think Ellie's dad is feeling? Look at

the illustrations on pages 20 and 21. What extra information do they give us? Draw the group's attention to the expressions on dad's and Tuffy's faces. How would they describe them? What do the children think that Ellie's dad is doing?

Read the rest of the chapter together. Tuffy is kept in so he can't tell us what had happened first hand. What trick does the author use so we can discover what has happened from a cat's viewpoint? What do the children think the cats' howls of laughter might sound like? Look at the sentence, "Murder," I said. "For cold-blooded bunnicide." What do the children think *bunnicide* means? Look at the last lines of the chapter. Can the children predict what Ellie's dad is going to do next?

Read 'Still Friday' together. Draw the children's attention to how the two chapters link. Explore how Anne Fine uses this technique by highlighting the first and last sentences of each chapter and think how they relate to each other.

Look at the illustration on page 29. Ask the group to work with their partners to use similes to describe how dad came downstairs (like a furious storm), what his face looked like (like thunder), how he spoke (like a tiger growling) and what he is thinking. Look closely at the illustration to see where Tuffy is hiding. Can the pairs create a simile to say how he hides and work out what he might be thinking? Why would dad be doing something like this as soon as he got up? Take it in turns to read dad's tirade aloud. How can the children make it sound really angry? Help the group read this with expression using the punctuation. What does 'Woe betide you' mean? Can the children think of any other crazy expressions that adults use when they are cross or lose their temper? Make a collection of crazy cross phrases. Does Tuffy react well to being told off? Did he deserve his punishment?

Saturday

Tuffy sees everything from his point of view only! Read the first paragraph of this chapter and ask the children to list all the things Tuffy

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