

A TEACHER'S GUIDE TO

HOGLET THE SPINELESS HEDGEHOG

by Allyson Marnoch, illustrated by Lorraine Ward



www.florisbooks.co.uk

Themes/issues addressed in this book

Hedgehogs, being different, leaving home, overcoming obstacles, being brave, friendship, the countryside, kindness, wildlife, getting a second chance.

Book Summary

Hoglet the little hedgehog is different from his brother and sisters – he has no spikes. When he leaves home, he knows he must try to find food and a safe place to hibernate through the cold Scottish winter, but without spikes he finds it hard to stay warm and protect himself from some bigger creatures that think he looks like a tasty snack. He meets some new friends along the way, however, and they tell him about Second Chance House and the kind lady who lives there, Margaret Love, who helps all needy animals that come her way. Hoglet sets off to find her, and has several dangerous and scary encounters before he eventually arrives, exhausted and ill, at Second Chance House. Margaret Love takes care of him, however, and settles him in to hibernate for the winter. In the spring, Hoglet is much better, and what is more, his spikes have grown! He is ready to face the world. This heart-warming tale has over forty illustrations to help younger children's imaginations, and a 'top tips' section for looking after hedgehogs.

BEFORE READING

Group Activities

- Discussion: what is a hedgehog? Have you ever seen one? What do they look like? Where do you find them?
- Discussion: what does 'hibernate' mean? Why do animals hibernate? Do you know of any other animals that hibernate? Does a cat hibernate? How about a cow? Why? Why not?

AFTER READING (note, contains spoilers!)

Individual Work

- Write a paragraph on the thoughts and feelings you had when:
 - a) Hoglet leaves home (chapter 1)
 - b) The farmer thinks Hoglet is a rat (chapter 4)
 - c) The ostrich thinks Hoglet is one of her eggs (chapter 8)
 - d) McCavity finds Hoglet in the snow (chapter 12)
- Draw a picture of one of the following creatures that Hoglet meets on his travels: an ostrich, a spider, a Highland cow, a fox, a Scottish wildcat, a mouse, an eagle, an owl.
- Think about one time when you were brave and did something that you were a bit scared of. Write two paragraphs about your experience explaining what you did, why you were scared of it, and how you felt afterwards.

Group Activities

- Group activity: seasons. Divide the class into four groups and give each group one of the four seasons. Ask them to write down ten things about their season, for example, what the weather is like, or what happens to the trees, or whether anything special happens in their season, like Halloween or Easter. Get each group to present their season to the rest of the class.
- Class activity and discussion: looking after hedgehogs and wildlife. Look at the 'top tips' section at the back of the book and consider each tip. Discuss why it is important to know simple things like this. Try to memorise each tip so you can help hedgehogs like Hoglet in future.

(continued overleaf)

Kelpies Series Summary

The award-winning Kelpies series is Scotland's favourite collection of children's fiction. Floris Books took over the list in 2001, republishing classic works by authors such as Kathleen Fidler, Mollie Hunter, George Mackay Brown and Allan Campbell McLean. Since then, we have continued to add to the series with a range of highly successful new Scottish novels for children including books by Gill Arbutnott, Alex Nye, Lari Don, Anne Forbes, Annemarie Allan, Mike Nicholson and Margaret Forrester.

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS COVERED

5-14 Curriculum (Scotland)

Years: P4-P7

Listening:

Listening in Groups
Listening for Information, including instructions and directions

Reading:

Reading for Information
Reading to Reflect
Awareness of Genre

Talking:

Talking in Groups
Talking about Texts
Talking about Experiences, including feelings and opinions

Writing:

Functional
Imaginative

National Curriculum (England, Wales, Northern Ireland)

Key Stage 2

English: Reading

Reading Strategies
Response to Texts, including analysing and evaluating
Reading for Information

National Literacy Strategy:

Text-Level Reading
Text-Level Writing
Vocabulary

- Class project: Scottish wildlife. Think about some of the creatures that Hoglet meets on his travels and find out about them, and other wild birds and animals that you might find in Scotland. Where do they live – what is their ‘habitat’? What do they eat? Do they hibernate? Do you know any stories about them? You may use the Internet (with supervision), your library, or ask family and friends for help with your research. Create an exhibition on Scottish wildlife and invite other classes to see it.
- Class activity: ramble. Go on a ramble into the countryside, or a wood near your school. See how much wildlife you can spot and try to identify a good habitat for some of the creatures in the book.

Vocabulary

- Check you know what the following words mean (page numbers of example words in brackets):

advice (97)	aimlessly (21)	almighty (44)	appetite (49)	avalanche (111)
concentration (23)	deposited (116)	despair (85)	determined (46)	dismay (12)
eerie (101)	eventually (38)	expedition (12)	expression (76)	fending (18)
foraging (20)	gigantic (11)	glinting (56)	goosebumps (31)	gust (89)
gutter (97)	hesitantly (20)	instinctively (82)	landmarks (77)	luxurious (57)
numb (56)	obviously (45)	offended (58)	outlawed (48)	pointless (36)
pondered (55)	prey (104)	quill (124)	ramp (86)	reluctantly (20)
resist (53)	resounding (35)	retreat (86)	ridiculous (58)	rummaging (84)
signalled (9)	stammered (57)	taunted (58)	tawny (36)	timidly (46)
uncontrollably (39)	viciously (15)			