



**WORDS ARE ONLY
HALF THE STORY**

Lesson Plan for the Bone Series by Jeff Smith

Pre-Reading Activities:

1. The theme of the Bone series is adventure and how an ordinary character becomes a hero. Have students make a list of heroes and a short phrase that describes each hero's adventure. Collect the answers. Put them on your interactive whiteboard and have students match them up.

During Reading:

1. Comic panels are like movies. Some panels are close ups while others are long shots. Have students choose a panel and write about why the author chose the long or the short shot.
2. The space between the panels is known as the gutter. The author/artist often implies events that happen between panels in the gutter. Have students work in pairs and find an example of how this is true. What happened in the space?
3. Have students compare the three cousins.

Post Reading:

1. Have students practice dialogue punctuation by writing out a few pages of one of the Bone books in narrative form.
2. Sometimes the humor in a comic may not read the same for a second language learner. Pair students together and find examples of humor.
3. Bone characters often act as heroes. Have students create their own hero. What is his or her name? Who is his or her sidekick? What does he or she wear?



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