

LESSON PLAN

FIRST STAR

A BEAR AND MOLE STORY

written and illustrated by Will Hillenbrand

Bear and Mole are on another fun adventure. But can Mole get over his fear of the dark and getting lost? All you need to do is look up and believe.



9780823437 • Ages 3–6 • E-book available

Learning Objectives: Read text with purpose and understanding, retell familiar stories, identify characters, settings, and major events in a story, read and identify verbs in past tense, identify problem and solution. Use observations of the stars to describe patterns that can be predicted.

Guided Reading Level: J

Grade Level Equivalent: Grade 1

Interest Level: Pre-K–3

Instructional Standards

Reading Literature: RL.K.1,2,3,4,5,6,7,9,10/RL.1.1,2,3,4,7,9

Reading Foundation Skills: RF.K.1,2,3, 4/RF.1.1,2,3,4,4a,4c

Writing: W.K-1.2,3,7,8

Speaking and Listening: SL.K-1.1,2,3,4,5,6

Language: L.K.1,1b,1f,2,2a,2b,4,5,5b,5d,6/L.1.1,1e,2,4,4a,4b,4c,5,5d,6

NGSS: 1-ESS1-1 Earth's Place in the Universe



BEFORE READING

1. Read the title and discuss the cover illustration.
2. Write "First Star" on the board.
3. Create a chart: What is a star? Where do you find stars? What do you know about stars? What do you want to know more about?
4. Read the name of the author/illustrator. Discuss each role.
5. Display other Bear and Mole books. Ask students to describe the relationship between Bear and Mole.
6. What do you already know about the characters?
7. Take a picture walk through the book.
8. Have students predict what the book is going to be about.
9. Write the vocabulary words on the board: **gazed, rolled, stuffed, climbed, picked, clambered, helped, whimpered, played, bathed, worried, shaped, scattered, reached, giggled, marveled, wondered.**
10. Invite students to identify the beginning sound for each word including blends: **st, cl, wh, pl, sh, sc.**
11. Read the words as a group. What do all the words have in common (action words/_ed)?
12. Ask students to identify the common ending "_ed." Have students come up and circle the "root" word in each word. Point out that in the word "worries" the y was changed to i (worry/worried).
13. Write the word "reach" on the board. Ask students to reach up high for the sky. Then have them tell what they did. Fill in the blank: I _____ up high to the sky (reached).
14. Discuss other examples of using past tense verbs.



15. Discuss the text type of the story. Ask students to use evidence from the illustrations to explain why this book is fiction (animal fantasy).
16. Read *First Star* to find out Mole's problem and how the problem is solved.

DURING READING

1. Read the story aloud.
2. Ask students to follow along as you read.
3. Discuss punctuation marks. Point out the quotation marks and tell children this means someone is talking in the story. Commas mean you need to pause, and each sentence ends with a period, question mark, or exclamation point.
4. Discuss difficult words and how to figure out the meaning in context.
5. Point out that some words and phrases may mean something other than what they seem (literal vs. non-literal meanings).

"I want to see the stars turn on."
"Then they made camp."
6. Ask the students how the illustrations and words help us understand what the story is about.
7. Have the students read the book independently.
8. Who is this story about (main characters)?
9. Where does the story take place (setting)?
10. How does the setting change throughout the book?
11. What is Mole thinking when he is looking up at the sky?
12. Why does Bear suggest a hike at Camp Tiptop? What happens as they hike?
13. Who has a problem in the story? What is the problem?
14. Why does Mole worry? What are his fears?
15. Would you be afraid?
16. How is the problem solved?
17. How does the story change from the beginning to the end of the book?
18. What is the surprise for Bear and Mole at the end of the story?

AFTER READING

1. What do you think Mole wishes for?
2. Retell the Legend of the First Star in your own words. Draw a picture.
3. In the legend, what made the moon and the stars?
4. Why were the stars comforting to Mole (they provide light and they tell you where you are so you cannot get lost)?
5. What other objects can you see in the nighttime sky?
6. Why do you think that the First Star is also called the North Star?
7. What is special about the North Star?
8. What kind of character is Bear? Mole?
9. Why do you think Bear and Mole are great friends?
10. Describe how specific illustrations help you understand the story.
11. Go back to the book with a partner and find all of the vocabulary words. Discuss/write the meaning in your own words by reading the words in context and looking at the illustrations.
12. What does this mean to you? "Dark is not so dark if you know where you are."



13. Fill in the correct verb from the story.

scattered, gazed, clambered, whimpered, shaped, marveled, climbed, wondered, worried

1. Mole _____ up at the sky.
2. Mole _____ if he would get lost.
3. Bear and Mole _____ up, up, up. Together they _____.
4. Mole _____. I want to go back home! He _____ about getting lost.
5. In the legend, the First Little Bear _____ the moon and _____ the stars.
6. Mole _____ at the shooting star!

14. Choose words from the story that have the same meaning and draw a line between them (synonyms).

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| • marvel | • clamber |
| • giggle | • chuckle |
| • pick | • wonder |
| • climb | • reach |

More Science Questions

1. What have you learned about stars?
2. What is a star?
3. Where do stars come from?
4. How do stars differ?
5. Why are they important?
6. How do scientists study stars?
7. How can we learn more about stars?

Guide written by Marla Conn, reading/literacy specialist and educational consultant

For additional activities and reproducibles for *First Star*, visit HolidayHouse.com.

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