



Fiction

Oxford Level 14 Pack A

Trapped!

Author: Malachy Doyle

Range: Adventure story

Theme: Solving a problem

Teaching notes authors: Thelma Page and Vicky Yates

Synopsis

Tom's sheepdog Jacko always welcomes him home from school, but one night he isn't there. Dad goes up the mountain to look for him next morning, but with no success. Eventually they discover Jacko in a disused mineshaft. The Mountain Rescue team agrees to help, but Jacko won't leave the shaft. Further down an underground passage a man is lying injured.

Group or guided reading

Introducing the book

- Read the title and the blurb on the back cover. Ask: *Who do you think is trapped?*
- Read 'About the author' on page 64. Find out why there might be unexpected dangers in the mountains. *Why did the author write this story?*

Strategy check

- Read the beginning of the story on page 3. *Is this a first person account, or a third person account? How can you tell?*
- Find 'mine shafts' on page 5. *What is a mine shaft? Why would it be dangerous?*

Independent reading

Focus: Explain that you want them to be able to answer these questions when they read the story: *From whose point of view do we hear the story? What do we find out about him?*

- Ask the children to read the story independently while individuals read aloud to you.
- Ask questions to check that the child has understood the story so far. *What have you found out about the narrator?*

Returning and responding to the text

- *Who is the narrator of this story? Where do we find out the narrator's name?* Invite a volunteer to tell you the page number. (page 10)
- Ask each child to tell you one thing they discovered about the narrator while reading the story.
- Talk about how much Thomas loved his dog and find evidence on pages 10, 12, 19, 39–40 and other pages that the children may have marked.
- *How did Thomas react when he fell and hurt himself?* Find out on pages 24–28. *Did he give up or keep trying?*
- *Why was Thomas angry about the snow on page 34?*
- *Why did Thomas want to go into the mine shaft on page 51?*
- *Why did he follow Jacko? (page 57)*



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Speaking and listening activities

- Ask the children to work in groups to prepare a presentation for younger children about when to dial 999.
- Ask each group to choose a leader and then discuss reasons for calling 999. Remind the leader to make sure everyone has a chance to speak and to ask for suggestions on how to organise the presentation. Encourage groups to think of several ideas before deciding which one to use.
- Explain that it is the leader's job to allocate different roles to each of the group, e.g. *Who will introduce the presentation to the audience? Who will explain how to speak to the operator on the phone? Who will explain when you might need the police? Who will explain when to call an ambulance? When do you ask for the Fire Brigade?*
- Allow time for groups to practise their presentations.
- Praise leaders for taking on the responsibility for making sure that the presentation goes well.

Further reading activities

- Ask the children to list the chapter headings and write short notes on each chapter to create a summary of the story.
- Ask the children to copy the following list of words and explain what each one means in their own words: 'mine shaft', 'hypothermia', 'binoculars', 'echo', 'abseil', 'helicopter'. Then provide dictionaries and ask them to find and write the definitions and then compare them with their own versions.

Suggestions for using ICT

- Use a search engine to see if you can find any stories of dogs who helped their partners. Ensure that the children only have access to child-friendly sites.
- Ask groups who completed the speaking and listening session to use a word-processing package to create a 'When to call 999' poster.

Writing activities

- Discuss the story as a group.
- Ask the children to write a review of the book, saying what they thought of the plot, the characters and the author's style of writing.
- Encourage them to quote from the book, e.g. "I thought Thomas was a realistic character because I liked the way he said 'I threw myself back down on the bed' when his dad didn't find Jacko."
- Read the reviews aloud and encourage the children to say whether they agree or disagree with each other's comments about the book.

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Trapped Lyrics: You know they got me trapped in this prison of seclusion / Happiness, living on the streets is a delusion / Even a smooth criminal one day must get caught / Shot up or shot down. Trapped. 2Pac. Produced by Pee Wee. Album 2Pacalypse Now. Trapped Lyrics. Trapped Filmdaten Deutscher Titel: 24 Stunden Angst Originaltitel: Trapped Produktionsland: USA, Deutschland Erscheinungsjahr: 2002 Lnge: 106 Minuten Originalsprache | Deutsch Wikipedia. Trapped Trap Trap, v. t. [imp. & p. p. {Trapped}; p. pr. & vb. n. {Trapping}.] [Akin to OE. trappe trappings, and perhaps from an Old French word of the same origin as E. drab a kind of cloth.] To dress with ornaments; to adorn; said especially of horses | The Collaborative International Dictionary of English.