

Are We There Yet?



Are We There Yet? Teachers' Notes

Learning objective: Year 1, 7a: Identify the main events and characters in stories

Key words: there, their, said

Cross-curricular/theme links: Family life, journeys

Genre: Fiction

NC level: Approximately Level 1C

Assessment: AF2, Level 1: Some simple points from familiar texts recalled

Word count: 216

Getting started

Read the title and back cover blurb together with the children. Ask: 'Have you ever been on a long walk or journey with your family? Did you get bored and want to get to the end quickly? What types of things can you do on a journey, to make the time pass more quickly?' Share the children's predictions about the story.

Guided reading

Pages 2-3: Ask the children how they think Max feels about the walk. How can they tell? Look for evidence in the picture as well as the words.

Pages 4-6: Can the children spot a repeating pattern in the text? Which words do they think might be repeated again and again in the story? Remind them to use phonic strategies to work out any unfamiliar words.

Pages 7-12: Were the children right about the repeating words? What do they think will happen next in the story?

Pages 13-15: Ask: 'How is Max feeling now? Have you ever felt like that? What might happen next?'

Page 16: Ask: 'How is Max feeling now? What do you think he will do next?'

Speaking and listening

- In a group, make up a cumulative story about a journey, for instance: 'We went on a long walk and we got mud on our wellies. We went on a long walk and we got mud on our wellies and twigs in our hair ...'. Can the children remember the whole list, and add to it each time?

After reading

Use these questions to help children talk about the story.

- What problem does Max have in this story?
- Do you think he's the only one in his family who is fed up with the long journey?
- How do you think he feels when he finally gets home?

Reading into writing

The children could extend the story by adding new items to the refrain, perhaps using some of the ideas they came up with in the cumulative story activity above.

Book quiz for children

- 1 Can you name all the people in Max's family?
- 2 What living creatures do they see and hear on their walk?
- 3 What type of house does Max's family live in?

Support for less confident readers

Help less confident readers to identify the repeating refrains in the story, and give them practice in reading these. Be ready to help them with unfamiliar words that crop up outside the refrains.

Extension for more confident readers

Can the children think of other cumulative stories that work in a similar way, for example, *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury? Encourage them to make up their own cumulative story, orally or in writing.