

***The Eye of the Wolf* by Daniel Pennac**

Year 3 and 4

Reasons for selection and synopsis

The wolf has lost nearly everything on his journey to the zoo, including an eye and his beloved pack. The boy too has lost much and seen many terrible things. They stand eye to eye on either side of the wolf's enclosure and, slowly, each makes his own extraordinary story known to the other...

This is a wonderful, moving story which encourages the reader to see events from different perspectives and offers a rich, layered and complex narrative. The otherworldly illustrations, in a beautiful array of shadowy charcoal tones, reinforce the relationship between the boy and the wolf.

Before reading...

Ask the children to look at the front cover. What do you think the book will be about? What things can you see on the front cover? What sort of story will it be? Who might enjoy it?

Now read the blurb – where any of your predictions correct? How do the reviews on the back persuade you to read the book?

Reading Vipers

Vocabulary
Infer
Predict
Explain
Retrieve
Sequence or Summarise



As a group, create a **semantic** map by noting down as many words that you can think of relating to the word '____' and then find common connections between them. Use a spider diagram to help you sort your ideas.

The following questions are designed as prompts only – allow the children to come up with their own questions and ideas. They will be much more engaged this way!

How They Met Chapters I-III

Vocabulary	<p>Find and copy any words and phrases that describe what the enclosure is like.</p> <p>What does the phrase 'without moving a muscle' suggest about the boy?</p> <p>Find and copy a word or phrase on page 14 that suggests the wolf is powerful.</p>
Infer	<p>Why do you think the wolf is pacing up and down his cage? (pg 12)</p> <p>What does the phrase 'jumps out of his fur' (pg 14) suggest about how the wolf is feeling?</p> <p>How do you think the wolf feels towards humans? Can you use evidence to explain your ideas?</p> <p>Why do you think the boy closes one eye? (pg19) What does this tell us about him?</p>
Predict	<p>Read to the end of page 12. What do you think will happen next?</p> <p>Why do you think the boy is always at the zoo? Where might he have come from? Where are his family?</p>
Explain	<p>Explain how the boy is different to the other children (pg 11).</p> <p>Look at the illustration on page 13. Explain how it makes you feel and why.</p> <p>The wolf and the boy are both lonely. Discuss.</p>
Retrieve	<p>How did the wolf lose his eye? (pg 12)</p> <p>Where does the wolf come from? (pg 14)</p>
Summarise	<p>Look at Chapter I. Can you summarise the events so far from the boy's point of view?</p> <p>Can you summarise the wolf's views about humans?</p>

The Eye of the Wolf Chapters I-IV

Vocabulary	<p>Which words and phrases tell you that Blue Wolf is more mature and serious than the other wolves?</p> <p>Can you think of a synonym for the word 'hasty'?</p>
Infer	<p>How is Blue Wolf different to his brothers and sisters?</p> <p>What impression do you get of Blue Wolf from Chapter I?</p> <p>What sort of voice might Black Flame have and why?</p> <p>Look at the sentence: "Humans? Two legs and a gun." (pg 36)</p> <p>What does this tell you about Grey Cousin's view of humans?</p>
Predict	<p>Read to the end of Chapter I. What do you think the she-wolf will say about humans?</p> <p>Read to the end of Chapter IV. What do you think might happen to Shiny Straw?</p>
Explain	<p>Can you explain why the boy names the wolf 'Black Flame'?</p> <p>Can you think of another name for the wolf?</p> <p>Do you think Chapter I is a flashback? When might this part of the story be set? Can you explain why?</p> <p>Why do you think Black Flame told the cubs the story about Clumsy? What do you think the moral of the story might be?</p> <p>Can you explain what you think Black Flame means when she says that a human being is a 'collector' (pg 36)?</p>
Retrieve	<p>What colour is the wolf's eye? (pg 23)</p> <p>What does Grey Cousin's howl tell the wolves?</p> <p>What is the name of Blue Wolf's father?</p> <p>Why did Grey Cousin wipe away the footprints with his tail? (pg 30)</p>
Summarise	<p>Can you summarise in one sentence the events of Chapter II?</p> <p>Can you re-tell the events of these chapters from Shiny Straw's point of view?</p>

The Eye of the Wolf Chapters V-VIII	
Vocabulary	<p>Which words and phrases tell you that Shiny Straw is a special wolf? (pg 39)</p> <p>Can you use a dictionary to write a definition of the word 'pandemonium'? (pg 46)</p>
Infer	<p>What impression do you get of Shiny Straw from Chapter V?</p> <p>What do you think Blue Wolf might be thinking and feeling when he asks Shiny Straw why she laughs so much?</p> <p>What might Shiny Straw be thinking and feeling when Blue Wolf saves her and sacrifices himself?</p> <p>What do you think the 'thunderclaps' might be and why?</p> <p>Look at Chapter VII. How has Shiny Straw changed?</p>
Predict	<p>Read to the bottom of page 44 when Shiny Straw leaves to find the humans. What do you think will happen next?</p> <p>Read to the end of this section of the book. What do you think will happen next? Who do you think the focus will shift to?</p>
Explain	<p>Explain how Shiny Straw and Blue Wolf are similar. How are they different?</p> <p>How did you feel when you read about Shiny Straw's capture?</p> <p>Can you explain the significance of Shiny Straw's fur changing? What might it symbolise?</p>
Retrieve	<p>How is Shiny Straw able to catch the ducks on the river bank so easily?</p> <p>What does Blue Wolf do to save Shiny Straw?</p> <p>Who is Perdrix?</p>
Summarise	<p>What was the first thing that happened in Chapter VI?</p> <p>Look at Chapter VI. Can you summarise what happened to Blue Wolf after Shiny Straw escaped?</p>

The Human Eye Chapters I - IV

Vocabulary	<p>Which words and phrases tell us that Chapter II takes place during a 'terrifying night'?</p> <p>Find a word or phrase that suggests the woman speaking to Toa is desperate. Who might she be?</p>
Infer	<p>What sort of voice might Toa have? Why?</p> <p>What impression do you get of Toa?</p> <p>How do the nomads feel about Toa? Why?</p> <p>What might Africa (the boy) be thinking and feeling when he learns Saucepans has been sold?</p> <p>How do the descriptions of African and Saucepans show that they are close to one another?</p>
Predict	<p>Read to the end of Chapter III. Do you think Toa will desert the boy?</p> <p>Read to the end of Chapter IV. Who do you think Saucepans has been sold to? What do you think will happen to him?</p>
Explain	<p>What do you think the author means when he says, 'a name doesn't mean anything without the story that goes with it'? (pg 60)</p> <p>Explain how the setting of the boy's story is different to the setting for Blue Wolf's story?</p> <p>The boy is a storyteller. Do you think storytellers are important?</p>
Retrieve	<p>Look at Chapter I. What is the boy's name?</p> <p>Who is Toa?</p> <p>What name does the boy give to the dromedary?</p>
Summarise	<p>Can you summarise Chapter III in one sentence?</p> <p>Imagine you are Africa. Write a diary extract describing your time spent in the desert with Toa.</p>

The Human Eye Chapters V - VII

Vocabulary	<p>Explain the meaning of the word 'interrogated' (pg 73).</p> <p>Find a word that shows the cheetah was surprised that Africa has heard him creeping up.</p> <p>Use a dictionary to write a definition of the word 'ravenous' (pg 82)</p>
Infer	<p>What do you think it is that brings Africa and the cheetah together?</p> <p>What was the lion thinking when Africa left chunks of meat out for him?</p> <p>What impression do you get of the hyena from Chapter VI?</p> <p>What voice might the hyena have and why?</p> <p>How does the cheetah feel about the hyena? How do you know?</p>
Predict	<p>Read to the end of Chapter V. What do you think will happen next?</p> <p>Read to the bottom of page 84. What do you think has happened to the cheetah and hyena?</p>
Explain	<p>Explain how Green Africa is different to Yellow Africa.</p> <p>Can you explain the simile: 'the upturned bus looked like an old beetle on its back'? Is it effective?</p> <p>Who is responsible for the bus crash in Chapter VII?</p>
Retrieve	<p>How would you describe the king of the goats? Can you draw and label a picture of him using information from the text?</p> <p>How does Africa pay for his journey to Green Africa?</p>
Summarise	<p>Can you re-tell Chapter VI from the hyena's point of view?</p> <p>What happened at the end of Chapter VII?</p>

The Human Eye Chapters VIII - X

Vocabulary	<p>What does the adverb 'gingerly' (pg 91) suggest about Africa's health?</p> <p>Look at the words or phrases that describe Ma and Pa Bia. What do you learn about them?</p>
Infer	<p>Look at page 89. Who do you think Ma Bia is? Where do you think Africa might be?</p> <p>What impression do you get of the relationship between Pa Bia and Ma Bia?</p> <p>What do you think has caused the 'tumbling of broken branches' (pg 95)?</p> <p>What might Ma and Bia Bia be thinking and feeling when Africa tells them he has no parents?</p>
Predict	<p>Read to the end of chapter IX. What do you think will happen to Ma and Bia Bia?</p> <p>Do you think the choice of the forest setting will influence how the plot develops?</p> <p>Read to the end of this section. Where do you think Africa will go next?</p>
Explain	<p>Can you explain to a partner what you think 'The Other World' might be?</p> <p>What is the author's point of view regarding deforestation?</p> <p>How does the author engage the reader at the end of Chapter X?</p>
Retrieve	<p>Where do Ma and Pa Bia live?</p> <p>Why is their house on stilts?</p> <p>What is happening to the forest and why?</p>
Summarise	<p>Can you retell Chapter VIII from Ma Bia's point of view?</p>

The Other World Chapters I and II

Vocabulary	<p>What words and phrases suggest that Saucepans is happy to see Africa again?</p> <p>What does the word 'inmates' suggest about the animals and the zoo?</p> <p>Which key words tell you about life in the zoo?</p>
Infer	<p>'the walls of our town seemed a prison to him' (pg 106) – what does this mean? What does it suggest about Africa's thoughts and feelings?</p> <p>Why do you think Africa's eye has closed shut?</p> <p>How has the relationship between the wolf and Africa developed?</p> <p>What do you think is happening at the end of the story? Why?</p>
Predict	<p>Read up to the point when Africa meets Saucepans again. What will happen after this event?</p> <p>What do you think will happen to the wolf and boy next?</p>
Explain	<p>What is the author's view on zoos?</p> <p>Explain how you felt when Saucepans and Africa were reunited. Can you explain what you feel the moral of this story is?</p> <p>Do you like the way the story was told? Discuss your ideas with a partner.</p> <p>Re-read the first chapter. Has your understanding of what is going on developed or changed?</p>
Retrieve	<p>Which animals does Africa find at the zoo?</p> <p>What job does Toa now do at the zoo?</p> <p>What happened to the gorilla?</p>
Summarise	<p>In what order do these chapter headings come in the story? <i>The Other World, The Eye of the Wolf, The Human Eye, How they Met.</i></p> <p>What was the first thing that happened in the story?</p>

