

Reading Thematic Overview

'The lion and the unicorn' – Shirley Hughes

The Lion and the Unicorn is a charming story by Shirley Hughes about a young boy who befriends a magical lion and a unicorn. It explores themes of imagination, friendship, and the importance of storytelling.

English

The story allows pupils to explore themes of war, resilience, and identity through character analysis and descriptive writing. The rich narrative and vivid illustrations can inspire diary entries, recounts, and discussions about emotions and relationships during challenging times.

Geography

The various settings in the story can also lead to discussions about different types of communities and how these environments shape children's lives. For instance, scenes set at the beach can spark conversations about coastal areas, the role of beaches in leisure and community activities, and their significance in historical events, such as evacuations during the war.

Science

The book allows pupil to explore scientific concepts related to animal behaviour and adaptation, as the characters encounter various challenges in their environments. The story also provides a chance to investigate materials and forces, such as how objects are affected by gravity and the importance of shelter in protecting animals from the elements.

ICT

The book encourages the creation of digital storyboards retelling Lenny's evacuation journey, using tools like presentation software or animation apps.

Music

The story encourage pupils to explore themes of wartime music and emotional expression through sound. Pupils can create and perform musical pieces that reflect the moods of the story, such as the tension of evacuation and the comfort of newfound friendships, while learning about songs and instruments popular during World War II.

History

This story reflects the fun and adventures of childhood and can inspire conversations about how children's experiences have changed over time, particularly during challenging periods like war. While the book doesn't directly address historical events, it encourages us to think about how World War II impacted children, focusing on themes such as bravery, friendship, and resilience in difficult times.

