

Bearwalker
Discussion Guide
Grades 3-7

Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- What is your favorite animal? Why do you like it?
- What characteristics does a hero have? (write these on chart paper)
- What makes a good storyteller? (write on chart paper) Can you think of anyone in your life who is a good storyteller? Why?
- Do you believe that one is born bad? Why or why not?
- Frontload vocabulary: Chapter Prologue (see vocabulary list)

During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.

- What are Baron's impressions towards school librarians? Does Baron like the book that Ms. Mar gives to him? What clues from the story support your ideas? (Ch.1)
- From which parent's family does Baron inherit his clan? (Ch.2)
- How is Baron's trip to camp? Describe it with 3 words. (Ch.2-3)
- According to Baron, what are the real ways to tell which nation someone is from? (Ch.4)
- Why does Baron not want to go out in the forest now? Do you think Baron wants anyone to truly get to know him? What clues from the story support your thinking? (Ch.5)
- How is Baron's attitude towards bear different from other students? What may cause the differences? (Ch.6)
- What is a bearwalker? How do you know? (Ch.7)
- Who is Mr. Wilbur? Does he sound paranoid to you? Why or why not? (Ch.1-8)
- Who would want Mr. and Mrs. Philo to be here today? How do they know Baron's father? (Ch.9)
- Why does Baron choose to sit the corner to set? (Ch.10)
- What makes a good storyteller? (Ch.11)
- What are the differences between bears in Walker White Bear and Mr. Wilbur's telling? (Ch.8-12)
- What would you do if you were Baron in this situation? (Ch.13)
- Do you think Baron does a good job summarizing all the important points? What else seems strange to you? (Ch.12-14)
- Is Baron right about what he suspected before? (Ch.15)
- Who is Jason Jones? Describe him in as many details as you can. (Ch.7-16)
- What happened to Jason Jones when he was a teenager? (Ch.17)
- What does Mrs. Osgood pass to Baron secretly? Where is Baron running towards? (Ch.18)
- Why can Baron stay calm while being hunted? (Ch.19)
- Do you think it is a good thing for Baron to see bears in this chapter? Why or why not? (Ch.20)
- Where is Ms. Osgood? What could happen to him? (Ch.22)

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- Would you go search for Mr. Osgood even if you knew it was a dangerous choice? (Ch.23)
- Why does Baron want the bear walker to stay close to him? (Ch.24)
- Is everyone safe right now? When does everyone know that Baron has completed his mission? (Ch.25)
- Describe the Baron in 5 words. (Ch.26)

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

- Do you think Baron is a hero? Why or why not? Have your ideas about what makes someone a hero changed or stayed the same? How so?
- Baron's family were his mental energy throughout his adventure. What else has been his energy resource? What is your mental energy resource?

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.