

1. Before you read the text try to imagine how the life of a wolf cub could be like in the wild. Do you know any stories about wolf-cubs?

2. Read the following fragment from *White Fang* by Jack London. The underlined words are explained below the text.

White Fang is half wolf-half dog cub. One day, when his mother is out hunting for food, the cub walks out of their cave and falls into a river. The water takes him away from familiar ground and he finds himself alone in the forest...

"[...] One other adventure was destined for him that day. He had recollected that there was such a thing in the world as his mother. And then there came to him a feeling that he wanted her more than all the rest of the things in the world. Not only was his body tired with the adventures it had undergone, but his little brain was equally tired. In all the days he had lived it had not worked so hard as on this one day. Furthermore, he was sleepy. So he started out to look for the cave and his mother, feeling at the same time an overwhelming rush of loneliness and helplessness.

He was sprawling along between some bushes, when he heard a sharp intimidating cry. There was a flash of yellow before his eyes. He saw a weasel leaping swiftly away from him. It was a small live thing, and he had no fear. Then, before him, at his feet, he saw an extremely small live thing, only several inches long, a young weasel, that, like himself, had disobediently gone out adventuring. It tried to retreat before him. He turned it over with his paw. It made a queer, grating noise. The next moment the flash of yellow reappeared before his eyes. He heard again the intimidating cry, and at the same instant received a sharp blow on the side of the neck and felt the sharp teeth of the mother-weasel cut into his flesh.

While he yelped and ki-yi'd and scrambled backward, he saw the mother-weasel leap upon her young one and disappear with it into the neighbouring thicket. The cut of her teeth in his neck still hurt, but his feelings were hurt more grievously, and he sat down and weakly whimpered. This mother-weasel was so small and so savage. He

was yet to learn that for size and weight the weasel was the most ferocious, vindictive, and terrible of all the killers of the Wild. But a portion of this knowledge was quickly to be his.

He was still whimpering when the mother-weasel reappeared. She did not rush him, now that her young one was safe. She approached more cautiously, and the cub had full opportunity to observe her lean, snakelike body, and her head, erect, eager, and snake-like itself. Her sharp, menacing cry sent the hair bristling along his back, and he snarled warningly at her. She came closer and closer. There was a leap, swifter than his unpractised sight, and the lean, yellow body disappeared for a moment out of the field of his vision. The next moment she was at his throat, her teeth buried in his hair and flesh. [...]” (Jack Londodn, *White Fang*; chapter four)

disobedient - neascultător

furthermore - mai mult

grating sound - sunet aspru, strident

helplessness - neajutorare

to leap - a sări peste

loneliness - singurătate

overwhelming - copleșitor

queer - ciudat

to recollect - a își aminti

swiftly - repede

to scramble - a se repezi

to snarl - a mârâi

to sprawl - a merge de-a bușilea

thicket - desiș, tufăriș

to undergo - a trece prin, a păți

to whimper - a scânci

to yelp - a scheuna, a schelălăi

weasel - nevăstuică

3. Read the text and circle the correct answer for each of the following questions:

a) who does the cub miss when he finds himself alone?

his mother his father his brothers and sisters the weasel

b) why does he want to go back to his hole?

he is bored he doesn't like water he is tired, sleepy and misses his mother it is dark

c) what did the cub hear while sprawling along between some bushes?

his mother a cry the sound of water the snap of a twig

d) what animal does the cub meet in the forest?

a horse a bird a weasel a snake

e) what does the mother weasel do after the cub turns the little weasel over with his paw?

she runs away she goes for help she saves her young one jumps into the water

4. Do you think White Fang will manage to escape the weasel by himself? If not, who do you think will help him? Work in groups.

5. What lesson do you think White Fang learns from his encounter with the weasel?

Teacher's notes

Level – intermediate (clasa a VI-VII-a)

Time – 50 minutes

Lesson aims: to practice reading comprehension and speaking skills

Jack London (1876-1916) is an American writer. His best known books are *The Call of the Wild*, *White Fang* and *The Sea Wolf*.

1. Ask the students to remember any documentary films that they have watched or maybe even encyclopedias. Do they remember any movies or cartoons about wolves? How about any books?

2. Ask students to read the text and to write down any other unknown words.

3. Give the students five minutes to try and solve the exercise by them selves. Ask them to underline the passages in the text that support their choices. After they finish, check the answers open-class and correct the mistakes if any.

4. Ask the students to split into groups of four or five and give them five minutes to write an ending that they like: the cub saves himself, the cub runs away, the cub is saved by someone etc. Ask each group to present their versions of the stories open-class.

5. This exercise could be given as homework. Ask the student to write in 5-10 lines what the lesson is and to give arguments to support their ideas.