

Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource

Book Notes



Log Garfish

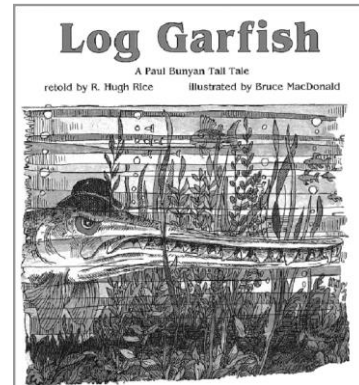
Author R. Hugh Rice

Illustrator Bruce MacDonald

16 pages ■ 114 words

Fountas and Pinnell Level M

Intervention Level 20



Log Garfish

SYNOPSIS

A retelling of a tall tale in which Paul Bunyan shows the lumberjacks how to outwit the greedy garfish.

WHAT THE BOOK OFFERS

- Fiction retelling of a tall tale
- Third person
- Past tense
- Action with little description
- Trickery of both sides
- Anthropomorphic
- Humor and exaggeration
- Glossary inside front cover
- Graphic features: bold and italic type for emphasis and to indicate onomatopoeia

POSSIBLE SKILLS EMPHASIS

- Maintaining meaning over more abstract story line
- Understanding the place of exaggeration and humor in tall tales
- Using graphic features to add expression to reading

† The level indicated here differs from that on early editions of the book. The changes have been made as a result of further trialing alongside other books in *Books for Young Learners*.



Log Garfish (continued)

INTRODUCING THE BOOK

- Establish understanding of “garfish,” perhaps referring to Informational Note on inside front cover.
- Also, check understanding of a tall tale and how it differs from a folk tale or traditional tale.

Now look at the cover illustration. How does this confirm what we have discussed about garfish and tall tales?

What does the garfish’s expression lead you to anticipate in this tall tale?

Give two adjectives to describe what you already know about this garfish.

FOCUS OF INSTRUCTION

Page 2: How do we know that teeth are going to be important in this story?

Add that to what we discussed about garfish. What do you now expect from this story?

Page 3: We talked about exaggeration being part of a tall tale. How might this be an example of exaggeration?

Pages 4 and 5: And this is an example of another aspect of tall tales. What is it?

Page 7: What is the effect on your reading of the italic type? Why did the author want you to pause and think about that? What does it make you anticipate on the next page?

Pages 10 through 13: What might Paul Bunyan be planning?

FOLLOWING THE READING

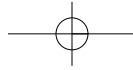
Who tricked who in this tall tale?

How does that make a tall tale different from a folk tale?

What was the garfish probably thinking or saying as the loggers stood on the bank cheering?

Reread the story again so you can appreciate the trickery and the humor more.

- Find other tall tales to compare or extend elements of the genre. Establish a list of features of tall tales.
- Take a simple story or folk tale and work with the group to rewrite it as a tall tale.



Log Garfish (continued)

Additional Comprehension Prompts For Oral or Written Use Before, During, and After Reading	
FINISH THIS THOUGHT	<i>The problem in this story was . . . The solution to the problem in this story was . . . and I think it was . . .</i>
USE YOUR MEMORY	<i>When a lumberjack stepped on a log, what happened? Why? Who found out that Log Garfish hated brushing his teeth? Who was Paul Bunyan? If you forgot, read the Nonfiction Note box on the inside back cover and then answer the question.</i>
WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?	<i>Do you think a garfish is a real fish? How can you find out for sure? Do you think this story could be true? Why or why not? What's a Tall Tale? If you aren't sure, check the Nonfiction Note box.</i>
BE CREATIVE	<i>Go to page 10. Now change the way this tall tale goes by coming up with a new solution to the problem of Log Garfish eating the lumberjacks. Rewrite pages 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 with new words and new pictures. You may keep Paul Bunyan in the tale, but you can't use the toothbrush idea. Use your imagination to figure out how you would stop Log Garfish from eating the lumberjacks. Be sure to illustrate your ideas. You might want to send your new pages to the publisher to see if he likes the way you changed this tall tale! Where will you find the name of the publisher of the book?</i>
VOCABULARY AGENT	<i>Look at the Informational Notes box on the inside front cover. You will see 5 words and their definitions. Read them. Then write each word in a sentence. Here are the words: *gullet *log *logger *lumberjack *lumber</i>