

Supplemental Material S5. Expository text lesson plan.

The Wolves Are Back

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Lesson Plan: Purpose to Argue/Persuade

Central Idea: Wolves are essential to the ecological health of Yellowstone Park.

Idea #1: The Yellowstone wolves kill an elk.

1. How do the wolves contribute to the life of other animals?
2. What does it mean to "share food again?"
3. What do we know so far about the importance of the phrase "The wolves are back?"

Feelings: thoughtful, surprised, curious

Stop/Talk: Page 1, end of second paragraph: "The wolves are back?"

Idea #2: The wolves are killed.

1. Why were the wolves hunted?
2. What was missing after they left?
3. How did some American's view their departure?

Feelings: grateful, understanding, approving, horrified, disgusted,

Stop/Talk: Page 1, end of paragraph 4: "The wolves were gone."

Idea #3: The wolves return.

1. Why did the park directors change their minds and their policy?
2. How were wolves reintroduced into the park?
3. How do we know they thrived?
4. What was the reaction of the visitors after the return?

Feelings: relieved, awed, grateful

Stop/Talk: Page 1, end of 6th paragraph: "The wolves were back."

Idea #4: Balance is restored in the Valley.

1. How does the return of the wolves affect life in the valley?
2. How do we know that living things are interconnected?
3. Why did the flycatcher and aspens return?
4. Why was the grass so important to the health of the river and the animals that depend on it?

Feelings: awe, satisfied, harmonious, knowledgeable

Stop/Talk: Page 2, end of first paragraph: "zoomed above them"

Idea #5: **The Valley needs the wolves to sustain its health.**

1. How important are the wolves to the survival of the valley?
2. What do we know now happened to the valley when the wolves were destroyed?
3. As the wolf packs increase what might happen to surrounding ecosystems like the Teton wilderness?
4. What did the park directors and visitors learn from this experiment?

Feelings: amazed, motivated, adaptable, responsible.

Stop/Talk: End of book

Big Ideas

1. Living things are interconnected in ways that aren't always apparent.
2. Human intervention into nature requires thoughtful study.
3. Wolves are vital to the health and balance of the Lamar Valley ecosystem.
4. The goal of cultivating a gentle nature can be detrimental to a healthy ecosystem.

Thoughts and Suggestions

This is a beautiful book that easily ties emotions to facts making it an accessible informational text.