

## Stone Fox – Reading Unit

**Developed by: Linda Fenton**

**Discipline / Subject: Reading/Language Arts**

**Topic:**

**Grade Level: 3, 4, 5**

**Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs:**

Book: **Stone Fox** by John Reynolds Gardiner

Activity Sheets Attached

Movie: “Stone Fox” (1987)

**Unit Summary:**

Students will read the book **Stone Fox** about a dog, a boy, and their friendship. This works best for me with a classroom set of the book, but it can also be done as a read aloud. There are several activities attached including a Venn Diagram we use during the watching of the movie (the movie is incredibly different than the book). This is a great book for character study.

**Standard’s Addressed: (Local, State, or National)**

Common Core Standards Reading 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

1. RL.3.1. Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.
  
2. RL.3.3. Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.
  
3. RL.3.6. Distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.

**Learning Objectives:**

Focus on characters.

**Method of assessment for learning**

Activity Sheets  
Classroom Discussion  
Knowledge of Reading

### **Procedural Activities**

- 1. As mentioned previously, I read this book with students who have their own books. We read several ways (shared reading, independent), but I usually read the first chapter to introduce the book. Pass out the prediction sheet and we predict the second chapter together. From this point on, they predict independently. In third grade, the entire book takes about a week.**
- 2. Can use the chapter assessments as you go, or create your own.**
- 3. Character study – students should choose a character to follow. They can team up for same character choices to discuss how characters change throughout the book.**
- 4. Some students will steam ahead because it is such an engaging book, but I tell them not to give away the ending. We read the ending together. Have tissue ready.**
- 5. For book follow-up, students are given the “Book Response” activity sheet.**

### **Materials Students Need:**

**Book Stone Fox**

**Activity sheets (Attached)**

### **Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning:**

**There is a great Graphic Organizer for Characters, story map, setting, etc:**

**<http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/storymap/>**

### **Modifications for Special Learners/ Enrichment Opportunities:**

**Students may have to read book with an aide, teacher, or parent.**

Prediction Chart - Stone Fox

Name \_\_\_\_\_

	WHAT I PREDICT WILL HAPPEN	WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED
Chapter 1	You don't have to write in this space for chapter 1.	
Chapter 2		
Chapter 3		
Chapter 4		
Chapter 5		
Chapter 6		
Chapter 7		
Chapter 8		

Character Study - Stone Fox

Name \_\_\_\_\_

What we think about, and how we feel about different characters in a book changes with each chapter we read. Record your reactions below.

Character: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter #	Characteristics and Observations



Which character did you like best? Tell why.

---

---

---

---

---

---

Why do YOU think the author titled the book Stone Fox?

---

---

---

---

---

Would you have changed the ending or kept it the same? Tell why.

---

---

---

---

---

STONE FOX

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter 1

1. Little Willy and his grandfather owned a \_\_\_\_\_ farm.

2. Why did Little Willy oversleep?

---

---

---

3. Little Willy's dog's name is (circle the correct answer):

Searchlight

Spot

Fenton

Rover

4. Doc Smith is an older woman. How can you tell?

---

---

---

5. What did Doc Smith say was wrong with grandfather?

---

---





(Chapter 2 cont.)

6. How did Little Willy harvest the field?

---

---

---

7. What do you think *Grandfather* is worried about?

---

---

---

STONE FOX

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter 3

1. Describe winter in Wyoming.

---

---

---

2. How many miles was it from the farm to school? (circle correct answer)

5 miles      10 miles      15 miles      20 miles

3. Why did Grandfather call town people "city slickers"? (circle correct answer)

They didn't know a potato from a peanut.

Their hands were pink and soft as a baby's.

They looked like they were going to a wedding.

All of the above.

(Chapt 3 cont.)

4. What happened when the church clock struck 6?

---

---

5. Why did the author use these words: "the sled seemed to lift off the ground and fly"? (circle correct answer)

To show how high up in the sky Little Willy and Searchlight were.

To show how fast Little Willy and Searchlight were going.

To show how high the ground was.

To tell how Little Willy became an astronaut.

STONE FOX

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Chapter 4

1. What is a derringer? (circle correct answer)

gun            kind of potato            shopping bag            dog

2. Why was the man pointing it at Searchlight?

---

---

3. Why was the man at the farm?

---

---

4. Where did Little Willy find the letters? (circle correct answer)

in the attic

in the strongbox

in the kitchen

in the barn

5. How much money do they owe in taxes? (circle correct answer)

\$100.00

\$200.00

\$300.00

\$500.00

## STONE FOX

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Chapter 5

Read the paragraphs below. Find and correct ten errors. There are five spelling errors and five errors in verb tense.

That afternoon Littl Willy stepped into the bank wearing his blue suit and his blu tie. His hair was so slicked down that it look like wet paint. He ask to see Mr. Foster, the president of the bank.

Mr. Foster was a big man with a big cigar stuck rite in the center of his big mouth. When he talk, the cigar bobbed up and down, and Little Willy wonder why the ash didn't fall off the end of it.

Little Willy show Mr. Foster the papers from Grandfather's strongbox and told him everything Clifford Snyder, the tax man, had sayd.

## STONE FOX

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Chapter 6

1. "Little Willy left the bank with a stack of ten dollar gold pieces - five of them to be exact." Write an equation and answer for this.

2. "When Little Willy stepped out of the city hall building, he felt ten feet tall." Why does the author say this? (circle correct answer)

To show how tall Little Willy was.

To show how proud Little Willy was of himself.

To show that he would have to duck his head to get through the door.

3. What are Samoyeds? (circle correct answer)

Dogs      Native Americans      Bankers      Name of Race

4. Describe Stone Fox.

---

---

---

Chapter 6 (Continued)

5. How many sleds were entered in the race? (circle correct answer)

3

6

9

12

6. Why were there only this number of sleds in the race?

---

---

---

## STONE FOX

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Chapter 7

1. Why did Little Willy go to town? (Circle correct answer)

Grandfather was out of medicine.

To practice one more time before the race.

He was hungry.

He needed more dogfood.

2. Would you have gone into the barn? Why or why not?

---

---

---

3. What did Stone Fox do to Little Willy? (Circle correct answer)

He offered him a Pepsi.

He shook his hand.

He tried to talk him out of doing the race.

He hit him.



Chapter 7 (Continued)

4. Why do you think Stone Fox did that to Little Willy?

---

---

---

5. What do you think is going to happen in the race?

---

---

---