

Week 1.

Suggested reading/writing activities for children in Y5 based around the book 'Under a Parrot Sky' on Rising Stars Jupiter/Blue A

Lily is devastated when her parents cancel their South African holiday for a work trip to Norway. On first impression, everything about Norway seems cold and strange, including the family she's staying with. One day, while out looking for something to photograph, Lily finds a lost puppy. But, next moment, she falls into a snow hole, and her life is in danger when she has to fight off a wild cat! By using quick thinking, and her camera's flash, she alerts her rescuers just in time. In the end, Lily makes friends with the family, and, in the Northern Lights, she sees her parrot sky. This story is written in the third person. The main characters have depth, and this will provide many opportunities for discussion as the children make inferences and predictions about what happens next.



Before Reading:

Introduce children to the book by looking at the front and back cover.

- Point to the book title. Ask: What can this mean? The title doesn't give much away and leaves us wanting to find out more. Discuss the cover illustration (a girl, who looks a little unhappy, is skiing and looking up at the sky; winter/snowy setting; forest/hilly landscape).
- Read the back-cover blurb. Ask: Where/when is this book set? Find out what the children know about Norway and where it is. Have any of the children been to Norway or to a snowy/hilly place where people ski? What was it like?
- The blurb tells us the girl (Lily) dreams of photographing a sky of parrots ... but she has some surprise encounters. What kind of story is this going to be? (E.g. An exciting adventure/a gripping survival story/chasing a dream.)
- Read the note from the author. Discuss the ways in which the author's visit to Norway inspired this book. If all the class can read the part about 'Michael Jordan' please page 28-36 (if your child wants to read more then that's brilliant- it's a great book!)

Following on from the reading this book, here are your writing activities for the week:

- Find out more about the Northern Lights. Where can you see them, and which times of the year are they at their most visible? Make a fact file of five key pieces of information to share with a friend.
- Take a photograph – or find a good one online – of your favourite animal. Give your picture a title. Now come up with a list of things you find interesting or impressive about the picture to persuade a competition judge that this photograph would be a worthy award-winner!
- In character as Lily, write a letter to Asta. Tell her about coming second in the photography contest and say what you've won. Share your news about where you're travelling to next!

Thank you for all your hard work. Please don't forget to send any completed work to our year group email:

year5@oliprimaryschool.co.uk

Mrs Coulson and Miss Topping.

Root words and suffixes

1 Read the extract below.

“... I don't think the photographer should be part of the story. A photographer's role is to observe life, you know.”

Write a **synonym** for 'observe': _____

Find and copy a word that means 'job': _____

2 Write one word to describe what Lily is feeling in the sentence below.

'He laughed loudly and Lily felt her face go hot.' _____

3 Here are some verbs from the story. Change them to nouns using the suffix *-tion*, *-ation* or *-ition*.

Verb	Noun	Definition
imagine	<i>imagination</i>	<i>The thoughts and ideas in our head</i>
inform		
react		
invite		
compete		
exert		
exhibit		

4 Now choose three of the new words (all nouns) you have made. Write a sentence for each one to show that you understand the meaning of the word.

a _____

b _____

c _____

***Under a Parrot Sky* quiz**

Read and answer the questions below.

1 On that first morning after breakfast, Lily felt unhappy. Why?

2 What is a language barrier? Tick one.

when language is blocked

☐

when people are not allowed to speak

☐

when people speak a different language

☐

when people who are trying to speak another language
are misunderstood

☐

3 At first, Lily was a little afraid of Ivan, but her opinion of him changed towards the end of the story. Why?

4 When Lily threw her coffee at the big cat, the author referred to it as 'ammunition' – why was this a good word to use?

5 What was Lily's 'parrot sky'? How does this ending link back to the beginning of the story?
