**Journey to the River Sea**

**Reading Activities**

**by Eva Ibbotson**

**Predicting** (what you think something may be about)

Before reading this book, look at the front cover, the illustrations, scan read through the book and read the blurb on the back cover. Then become a prediction detective:

In your jotter make predictions about the Characters, Events and Settings in your book. Use 3 headings, listed Characters, Events and Settings in your jotter. Then write your predictions under these headings and provide evidence why you have made these predictions(you could use page numbers of things you have linked to your opinion or perhaps connections you have made to other texts or knowledge you have read or learned about.)

**Summarising**

Use a page at the back of your jotter and write and then underline the heading *Summary.*

Use this page to record the main points of each chapter.

Chapter 1

Answer the following questions in sentences in your jotter.

1. What infers(hints ) in chapter 1 that this book is set a long time ago?
2. What adjectives does the author use to describe Maia?
3. Why does Maia live in a boarding school?
4. Where did Maia’s family live that Mr. Carter found?
5. How do you think Maia would feel knowing she had to go and stay with relatives in the Amazon?
6. Why is the Amazon river called the ‘River Sea’ ?
7. Describe what you think of Miss. Minton.

Summarise - Remember to record a summary(the main points) of this chapter at the back of your jotter, on your summary page.

Follow Up Task

Character Profile

Use an A4 sheet of paper and fold it in half landscape. Draw a picture of what you think Maia looks like just now and as you read on and gather more information about Maia, you will draw another image how you now think Maia looks like. You will be be able to use adjectives to describe both how Maia looks and her qualities.

Chapter 2

1. What infers(hints) that the cardinal is a lovely ship to be on ?
2. Why had the Goodleys wanted to adopt Clovis King?
3. How do you know Clovis hates his ‘acting’ life?
4. What was the name of the house Maia was going to stay in and what did it mean?
5. List some of the animals Maia and Miss Minton saw on their travels down the Amazon river.
6. What things did Maia see at the market?
7. How did Maia realise she had arrived in Manaus?

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Follow Up Task

Visualisation

After reading chapter 2, imagine what Maia’s journey through the Amazon Jungle would look like and draw a detailed picture of it and then use adjectives(describing words) to label your drawing.

Chapter 3

1. How do you think Maia would have felt when she arrived in Manaus and none of her ‘relatives’ had come to welcome her?
2. What information infers (hints) in Chapter 3 that Maia’s relatives are very different from what she imagined?
3. Why do you think the author has put the statement ‘ *the jungle must be kept at bay*’, when Mrs Carter is talking about the Amazon jungle to Maia?
4. Describe which type of food you would prefer, either the Brazilian food the Carter’s servants made or the ‘English’ tinned food the Carters wanted to eat and say why you would prefer to eat it.
5. Why do you think the Carters had offered to let Maia stay?
6. How did most Europeans make lots of money from being in the Amazon?
7. Why were the Carters becoming poorer rather than becoming richer?
8. Why did Miss Minton pretend that the twins were more intelligent than Maia to Mr. and Mrs. Carter?

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Follow Up Task

Visualise - Sensory Chart

In your jotter draw 3 columns and label them: Sounds like, Looks like, Feels like and then think about and write in these columns adjectives that describe what you know about the Carter’s house.

Chapter 4

1. What collection did Mr. Carter have? What is your opinion regarding his choice of collection?
2. What were ‘igapes’?
3. How does the author ‘infer’ (hint) that the twins dislike Maia?
4. List the similarities and differences between Manaus and a European city.
5. Predict why you think Mr. Low and Mr. Trapwood are looking for the ‘boy’, who Mr. Taverners son?
6. How does the author describe the accommodation Clovis has to stay in?

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Follow Up Task

Self Questioning

In your jotter use the title- I Wonder……then using 8 bulletpoints, list 8 questions you may have about chapter 3. Then before reading chapter 3 you can discuss your questions with your teacher and your group to try and answer your questions.

Chapter 5 & Chapter 6

1. What do you think Maia meant when she said to Miss Minton ‘she knew how Cinderella felt’ ?
2. Describe how the twins behave.
3. Predict who you think the boy who helped Maia find the town is.Give reasons.
4. Why was the police chief unable to go to the theatre?
5. Why do you think the Colonel and Professor Glastonberry were hiding ‘Finn’, the boy the Crows were looking for?
6. Why was Clovis so upset with his performance on stage?

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Follow Up Task

Research Eva Ibbotson, try to include lots of details about her and write down some of her other books she has written.

Chapter 7

1. Why wouldn’t the Carters send Maia away?
2. What excuse had Miss Minton thought of to get Maia outside?
3. Why had the Indians, who worked for the Carters accepted Maia and shown her kindness?
4. Describe some of the things Finn showed Maia.
5. Why had Finn to find the Xanti tribe?

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Follow Up Task

Think of and write 6 questions in your jotter that you would like to ask the author of this book(Eva Ibbotson). Then discuss your questions with a partner.

Chapter 8

1. Why did Clovis quickly find out that the Carters and their home were not pleasant ?
2. How did the Ombuda tribe manage to confuse Mr. Low and Mr. Trapwood about where Bernard Taverner’s son had gone?
3. What news did the hairdresser tell Mrs. Carter about that she was interested in? State why you think she was so interested.
4. Why had the Carters left England to come and stay in Brazil?
5. What had made Maia sick?
6. What plans did Finn have for Clovis that would allow him to go back to England?

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Follow Up Task

Inferring - DIRDS(described, illustrated, responded, what they do and say)

Choose a character from the book and answer the following questions using all the inferences(hints) that the author provides us with:

Described- How does the author describe the character?

Illustrated- How do the illustrations represent the character?

Responded to - How do other characters react to this one?

Do- What does the character do to give us clues about their distinguishing traits and qualities?

Say - What does the character actually say to give us clues about their traits?

Chapter 9

1. What is Westwood?
2. Describe how different Bernard Taverner was to his family members?
3. How did Bernard Taverner manage to escape from his family home?
4. Why couldn’t Lord Taverner’s daughter, Joan and her family, inherit Westwood? Provide your opinion of this.
5. Describe Finn’s plan for Clovis.

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Follow Up Task

Comparing

Using your venn diagram template, compare yourself to either Finn or Maia’s character.

Chapter 10

1. Why was Maia really visiting the museum?
2. Where were they going to hide Clovis?
3. Why were the Crows so desperate to find Mr. Taverner’s grandson?
4. Why had Finn’s mother died?
5. How do you think Clovis’s acting career would help him remember details about Westwood, when he returned to England to pretend to be Finn?
6. How did Maia manage to get Mrs. Carter to allow her to go outside?

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Follow Up Task

Using ICT, research some facts about animals found in the Amazon Jungle and then create an information leaflet or a poster for others to read.

Chapter 11& Chapter 12

1. Why did Maia feel she always had to stand up for Clovis?
2. Why were the Carters not popular with the Indians and a lot of the local European families?
3. How does the writer describe the music in Brazil?
4. What simile does the writer use to describe Netta’s baby brother?
5. What adjectives does the author use to describe the Keminsky’s home?
6. What things did Maia do to gain the twin’s interest in where she had hidden Clovis?

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Follow Up Task

Choose a character from this book and use as many adjectives to describe them as you can, both how you think they look and their personality.

Chapter 13 & Chapter 14

1. Use a dictionary or ICT to look up the word ‘obstinate’ and write the meaning of it in your jotter.
2. Describe Miss Minton’s connections with Westwood.
3. What did Miss Minton find that was going to make her some money?
4. List some of the things Finn taught Maia about the forest.

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Follow Up Task

Connecting

Write about an experience you have had that is similar to something that has happened in this book.

Chapter 15 & Chapter 16

1. List the inferences(hints) in Chapter 15 that tells us Westwood is a very grand house.
2. What things did Clovis do to impress Sir Aubrey?
3. What strange things were the Carters getting up to and why do you think this was happening?
4. How had receiving the reward money affected the twins?
5. How would you describe Finn’s feelings for Maia?

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Follow Up Task

Design a new front cover for this book. Don't forget the title and the authors name.

Chapter 17 & Chapter 18

1. What saved Clovis from having to learn to ride?
2. Describe how you think Clovis must be feeling, living a lie as another person.
3. What was going to happen to the Carters if they didn’t pay their bills?
4. At the end of Chapter 18 what behaviour do the Carters display that shows just how selfish they are?

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Follow Up Task

Scanning

Scan read through your book and write as many nouns as you can.

Chapter 19 & Chapter 20

1. Who had Miss Minton got permission for Maia to stay with? How would this be so different from staying with the Carters?
2. Why were the twins crying after the fire?
3. What was to happen to the Carters when they got out of the hospital?
4. What adjectives does the author use to describe the Carter’s bungalow when it was on fire?
5. How does Finn manage to help Maia?
6. What did Finn and Maia collect as they travelled through the Amazon?

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Follow Up Task

Imagine you are an agony aunt(someone who gives advice to people about their problems) Write some advice that you would give to Maia.

Chapter 21 & Chapter 22

1. Why do you think many people were willing to search for Maia?
2. What does Miss Minton eventually decide to do with Maia after she finds her?
3. Why do you think the author makes a point of telling us Miss Minton has floated a parcel containing her corset down the river?
4. Explain what the ‘irony’(the exact opposite of what you would expect) of the twin’s lives with Lady Parsons.

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Follow Up Task

Create a wanted poster for Mr. Carter. remember to list why he is wanted and include a phone number for people to call and a reward.

Chapter 23 & 24

1. What type of book was Miss Minton trying to create?
2. List some of the ways the Xanti tribe lived.
3. Who ‘rescued’ Finn, Maia, Miss Minton and Professor Glastonberry and why?
4. Who had left an important message for Finn?
5. What did Clovis and Finn ‘eventually’ decide to do regarding the truth about who was the heir to Westwood?
6. Where were Maia, Miss Minton, Professor Glastonberry and Finn finally going to live?
7. How easy do you think it would be now to disappear in the world? Explain your answer.
8. If this book was set in present times, do you think that Finn would have so much control over Maia? Give reasons for your answers.

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Follow Up Task

Book Review

Write a review of A Journey to the River Sea, using the headings below to guide you.

Who and when

Who wrote the book and when was it first published?

Setting
Where and when does the story take place?

Plot
What happens? Was it believable? Was it interesting?

Characters
Who are the main characters? Who did you like most? Why?

Reading
Was the book easy to get into? What do you think about the style it is written in? What kind of readers would like this book?

Your opinion
What did you like or dislike about this book? How would you rate it? Brilliant? Good? Average? Terrible?