

### Session 1: Book cover and pre-reading.

- The Title - write down a sentence on what you think the book might be about.
- Look at the artwork on the cover. Where do you think the story is set? Why?
- What sort of characters do you think the story might contain? Why?
- Read the prologue and create a timeline of the Ice Queen's rise to power.
- In that way does the prologue prepare the reader for the story before the action begins?

### Challenge task 1:

- Research - Inuits, The Kazakh Eagle Hunters, Constellations of the night sky
- Go to Abi's blog (<http://www.abielphinstone.com>) and read how she prepares before she writes her book.

## Session 2

### Chapters 1- 11

1. Look at the paragraph starting: 'She raked her nails...' Find two verbs in this paragraph that hint to the Ice Queen being a violent character?
2. Find a sentence in this chapter that shows Eska's fear of the Ice Queen.
3. The Ice Queen's voice is described as 'hard and pointed, as if full of unpleasant corners.' What do you think this means?
4. Summarise what you know about Flint by the end of Chapter 4.
5. In this section what do you learn about the magic of Erkanwald?
6. Chapter 8: Blu is obviously different from the other members of her tribe. List three ways in which she is different and provide quotations to back up your points.
7. Was Tomkin right to send Eska away? Why did he do this? How does Flint feel about this? Find a quote from Ch5 showing Flint's lack of compassion towards Eska. Now find a quote from Ch11 showing how Flint cares about Eska. Discuss his changing emotions.
8. As Eska, what are your hopes, your fears, your feelings about Flint, and your thoughts about the golden eagle?
9. Chapter 9: Identifying Dramatic Language - Eska is on the run - from the Fur Tribe, the wild beasts that might be lurking close and from the Ice Queen herself. In order to make this chapter as tense as possible, the author used a lot of energetic verbs, dramatic adjectives and vivid imagery (similes, metaphors and personification). Find and copy as many examples of dramatic verbs, adjectives and imagery as you can find from this chapter.

### Challenge task 2:

- What books have you read that take place in snowy or winter settings? Research such books as The Snow Queen by Hans Christian Andersen and The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by CS Lewis.

## **Session 3**

### **Chapters 11-23**

1. Looking at Chapter 9 and Chapter 12, discuss Eska's changing attitudes towards the wild. For example can you find a quote from Chapter 9 showing Eska's fear of the wild? Can you find a quote from Chapter 12 growing love of the wild?
2. Chapter 9 - Find evidence to show Eska's readiness to give up? Find a quote from Chapter 12 showing Eska's determination to survive?
3. Imagine you are a film director. Discuss how this chapter might be directed, thinking about the soundtrack, and how you would direct the camera. What sort of camera angles? Wide shots? Close ups? Think of key moments: the waterfall thawing, the snargoyles appearing, Eska coming face to face with Flint.
4. By Chapter 15 several themes have been introduced. Comment on the themes of friendship, courage, forgiveness and acceptance so far.
5. Chapter 17 - What is the task before them?
6. Chapter 18 - Summarise what contraption Slither has been making and how the Ice Queen is using it.
7. Chapter 23 - Discuss what you now know about the character called Rook. Consider such details as: her appearance, her attitude towards outsiders, her opinion of Blu, her thoughts on Eska.

### **Challenge task 3**

- Imagine you are Eska. Write a letter to your mother telling her of the things you've seen and the people you've met since escaping Winterfang. Then ask all the questions you've been longing to ask and write down the things you wished you'd had time to say before Blackfina was killed.

## Session 4

### Chapters 24 to the end

1. Refer to Eska's speech to the Feather Tribe as she tries to win their loyalty. What persuasive devices does she use?
2. Chapter 25: Look at the sentences: 'She's gone!' he gasped. 'Rook's gone.' How does the writer make this moment dramatic?
3. Pick out a sentence that shows Eska's fear.
4. Find three adjectives to describe Jay's dogs' wild nature.
5. Write down the sentence that shows Jay's loyalty to Eska and her friends.
6. Find a simile and a metaphor to describe the weather on the Driftlands.
7. Look at these sentences: *Then the wind picked up, heaving and groaning and stirring the mist so that it rose around them like a slow-creeping wave.* How does the writer make this moment frightening? Pick two examples.
8. Chapter 28. Summarise how Eska feels in this chapter. What is the task in front of her?
9. Read Chapter 30 - Exploring Child-Animal Bonds. Throughout the book Eska's bond with Balapan, the golden eagle, is clear. In this chapter though, we see her bond with an orca. Have you read any other books where there is a child - animal bond?
10. Pg 241 - What does the Ice Queen mean when she says, "You will never survive in my Erkenwald, but tonight you will play your part."?
11. Chapter 34 - How does Balapan save Eska?
12. Pg 264 - What happens as Eska begins to sing?
13. Explain how the prisoners came to be released?
14. Was the ending what you expected? What questions, if any, do you still have?

### Challenge task 4

- Read The Epilogue
- Consider the themes in this book.

## Session 5

1. Final discussion - discussion of main themes within the book and The Epilogue.
2. Read the Epilogue - Imagine Flint and Eska team up for another adventure in Erkenwald. What would it be?

