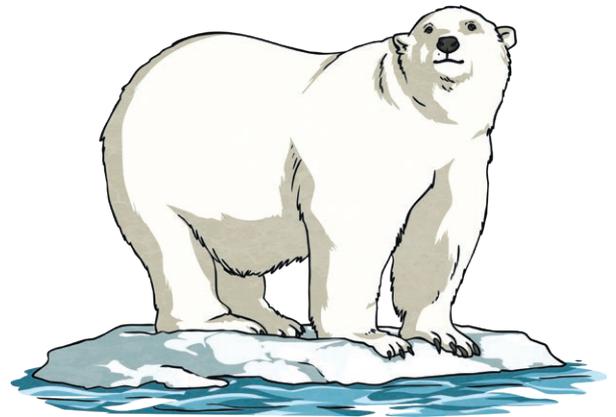


# Improving Your Reading with Cassie the Commentator: The King of the Polar Bears



The king of the polar bears lived among the icebergs in the far north of the country. He was old and monstrously big; he was wise and friendly to all who knew him. His body was thickly covered with long, white hair that glistened like silver under the rays of the midday sun. His claws were strong and sharp; perfect both for walking safely over smooth ice and for tearing apart the fish he fed upon.

The seals were afraid when he drew near and would work hard to avoid him. The seagulls loved him as he often left scraps for them to feast on. Often, his subjects (the polar bears) came to him for advice when ill or in trouble. However, the wolves, who sometimes came as far north as the icebergs, whispered among themselves; they thought that the king of the polar bears was either a magician or under the protection of a powerful fairy for nothing seemed to be able to harm him. He never failed to secure plenty of food and he grew bigger and stronger day by day and year by year... until the men came.



1. **...until the men came.**

Why do you think it says this right at the end?

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2. Compare the feelings of the seagulls and the seals towards the king of the polar bears.

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3. Which character's opinion of the bear do you agree with? Tick one.

the seagulls

the seals

the wolves

Explain your answer.

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4. Why do you think that other polar bears would go to the king of the polar bears for advice when they were ill?

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# Answers

1. ...until the men came.

Why do you think it says this right at the end?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the men are going to be the first to injure the bear. It says this at the end so that you want to read the rest to find out if the bear is OK.**

2. Compare the feelings of the seagulls and the seals towards the king of the polar bears.

**Accept answers that compare the seagulls liking the king of the polar bears to the seals being afraid of him.**

3. Which character's opinion of the bear do you agree with? Tick one.

the seagulls       the seals       the wolves

**Accept any single response providing that it is backed up with an explanation.**

Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: 'I agree with the seals because polar bears are strong and violent and I think that they are sensible to be afraid of him.'**

4. Why do you think that other polar bears would go to the king of the polar bears for advice when they were ill?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that they go to him for advice when they are ill because he is old so he probably knows a lot and it says that he is friendly.**