

# **THE WHIPPING BOY: A NOVEL STUDY**

## **Novel Information**

Author - Sid Fleischman

## **Story Summary**

In this story, young Prince Horace, better known as Prince Brat, is the worst prankster in the Kingdom. Because it is forbidden to whip, hit or spank a prince, a commoner named Jemmy, is brought to the castle to accept all punishment meant for Prince Brat.

When Prince Brat gets bored with his palace life, he decides to run away and take Jemmy with him. Soon, the two boys encounter two cutthroat highwaymen who kidnap them and hold them for ransom. The adventures that follow ultimately bond the boys with a friendship like none other, and return them to the castle with a new life ahead of them.

## **Novel Study**

The novel has been divided into seven sections. Each section contains a vocabulary activity, questions to be used for discussion or as written work, and a writing or creative activity.

The vocabulary in this novel study is based on Bloom's Taxonomy.

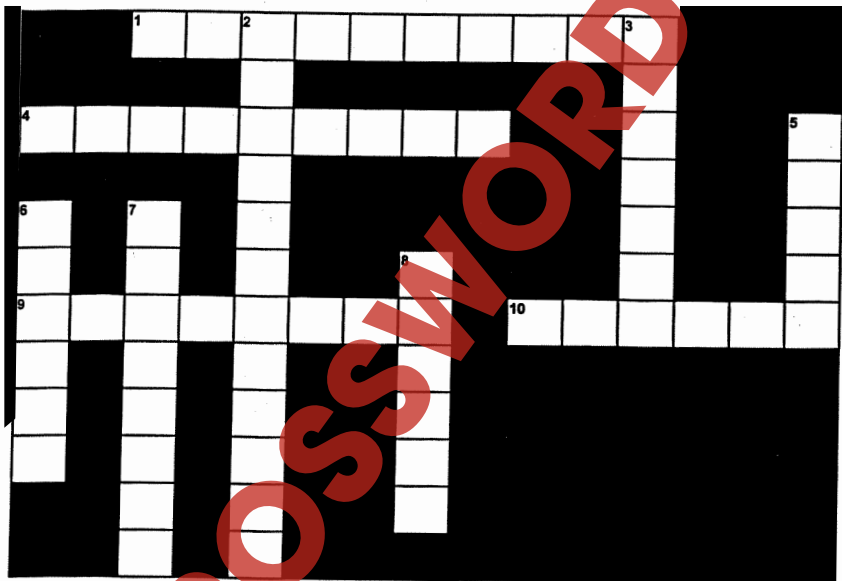


**CHAPTERS 1, 2 - Vocabulary**



Use the following words to complete the crossword puzzle. Use your dictionary to help you.

- contrite      gloat      exasperation      reckon  
 ferret      scholar      bellow      spectacles  
 contrary      defiantly



**Across**

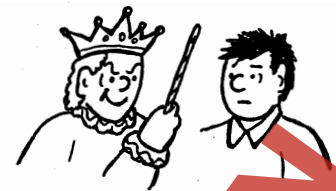
1. glasses  
 4. resisting or offering a challenge  
 9. showing deep regret  
 10. a small, weasel-like animal

**Down**

2. extreme annoyance, irritation, anger  
 3. a person having much knowledge  
 5. to brag  
 6. to think or suppose  
 7. opposite in direction or position  
 8. to yell loudly



**CHAPTERS 1, 2 - Questions**



1. What is the purpose of having a whipping boy at the castle?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What stunt did the prince pull the night the king held a grand feast?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

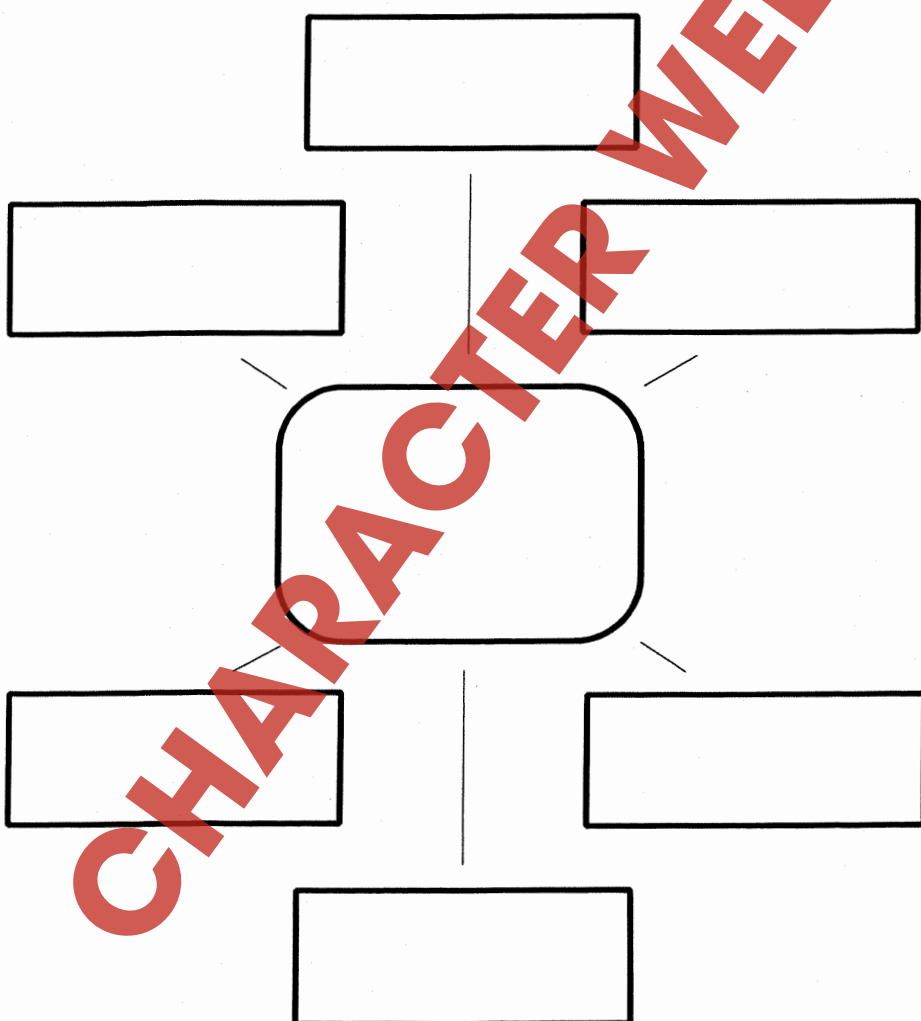
3. How do you think Jemmy felt about being whipped?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Create a character web for either Prince Brat or Jemmy. Refer to the example of the previous page if you need help.

**CHARACTER WEB FOR**

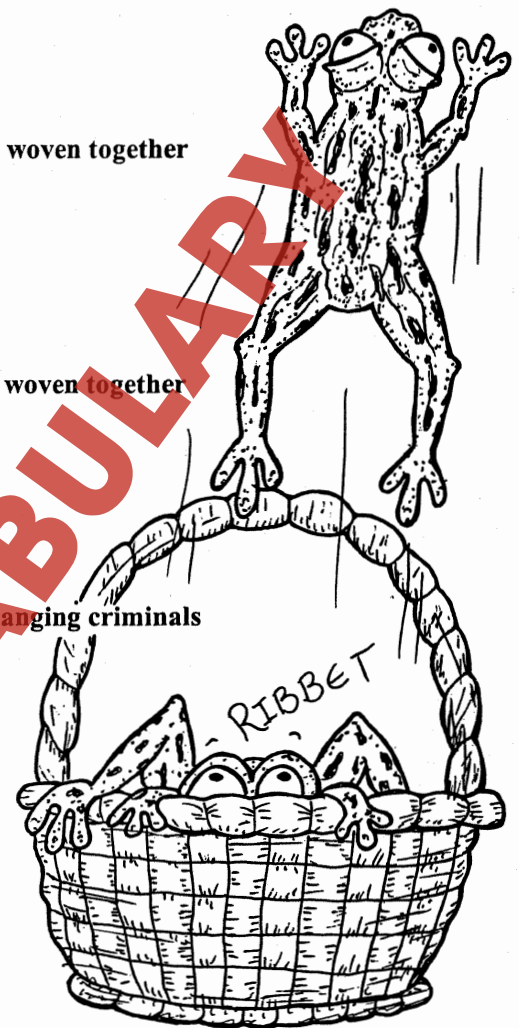


**CHAPTERS 3, 4 - Vocabulary**



Circle the best answer for each of the following words:

- 1) wicker  
 a) boldly rude and insulting  
 b) branches or twigs that can be woven together  
 c) to beat  
 d) very bad or unpleasant
- 2) moat  
 a) a ditch filled with water  
 b) branches or twigs that can be woven together  
 c) boldly rude and insulting  
 d) to beat
- 3) thrashed  
 a) very bad  
 b) a wooden structure used for hanging criminals  
 c) to beat  
 d) to deny or object strongly
- 4) protested  
 a) boldly rude and insulting  
 b) to beat  
 c) to pave with a rounded stone  
 d) to deny or object strongly
- 5) dreadful  
 a) branches or twigs that can be woven together  
 b) a ditch filled with water  
 c) a pipe or channel used to carry away waste water  
 d) very bad or unpleasant



CHAPTERS 3, 4 - Surviving In The Forest

Prince Brat has taken along a wicker basket. Brainstorm things that you think might be in the basket. Draw a picture to show what your ideas are.



CHAPTERS 5, 6, 7 - Vocabulary



Match the vocabulary words on the left with the definitions on the right. Write the corresponding number on the blank.

1. ruffian \_\_\_\_\_ The characteristic sound of a goat, sheep, or calf.
2. reveal \_\_\_\_\_ Straw, palm leaves, or other dried plant material used as a roof covering.
3. oblige \_\_\_\_\_ One who is mischievous, a prankster.
4. bleat \_\_\_\_\_ One who is tough and violent, a bully.
5. thatch \_\_\_\_\_ A perennial plant related to the onion and grown for its strong-smelling, distinctive-tasting bulb.
6. rogue \_\_\_\_\_ To open to view, show.
7. garlic \_\_\_\_\_ Something that has very little value or importance.
8. heir \_\_\_\_\_ A person who receives or has the right to receive, upon another's death, that person's rank or property.
9. herring \_\_\_\_\_ To cause to be grateful, obligate.
10. trifle \_\_\_\_\_ Any of various small fishes, found mostly in northern waters, that are caught in great numbers for food.

CHAPTERS 15, 16, 17, 18 - A Letter To The Author

Often, when we read a novel, we have questions about the story that we would like to ask the author. Write a letter to Sid Fleischman. Tell him your thoughts and feelings about the story. Ask him any questions that you have about the story. You may want to ask him about his plans for any future novels. Be sure to follow the proper letter writing format shown below:

heading: Doug Sylvester  
4020 In the Way  
Billjenny, Sask.  
S1S 1S1  
April 1, 2001

inside address: Mr. Sid Fleischman  
101 Writer's Block  
Cutwater, Sask.  
S0S 0S0

salutation: Dear Mr. Fleischman,

body: I am a student. I attend Captain Harry Nips School. I have read your book "Whipping Boy". It was a good book. I was wondering why you named the bear petunia. I don't know anyone with that name. My uncle's name is Leslie. My sister's name is Leslie too. I looked up petunia in the encyclopedia and there was a picture there of a flower with a big bee in it. A bear doesn't look like a flower or smell like a flower. Usually bears are brown or black. They do NOT smell good. I started to wonder about the bee. Bees make honey from the stuff they get from flowers. Bears like to eat honey. Is that how the bear got its name?

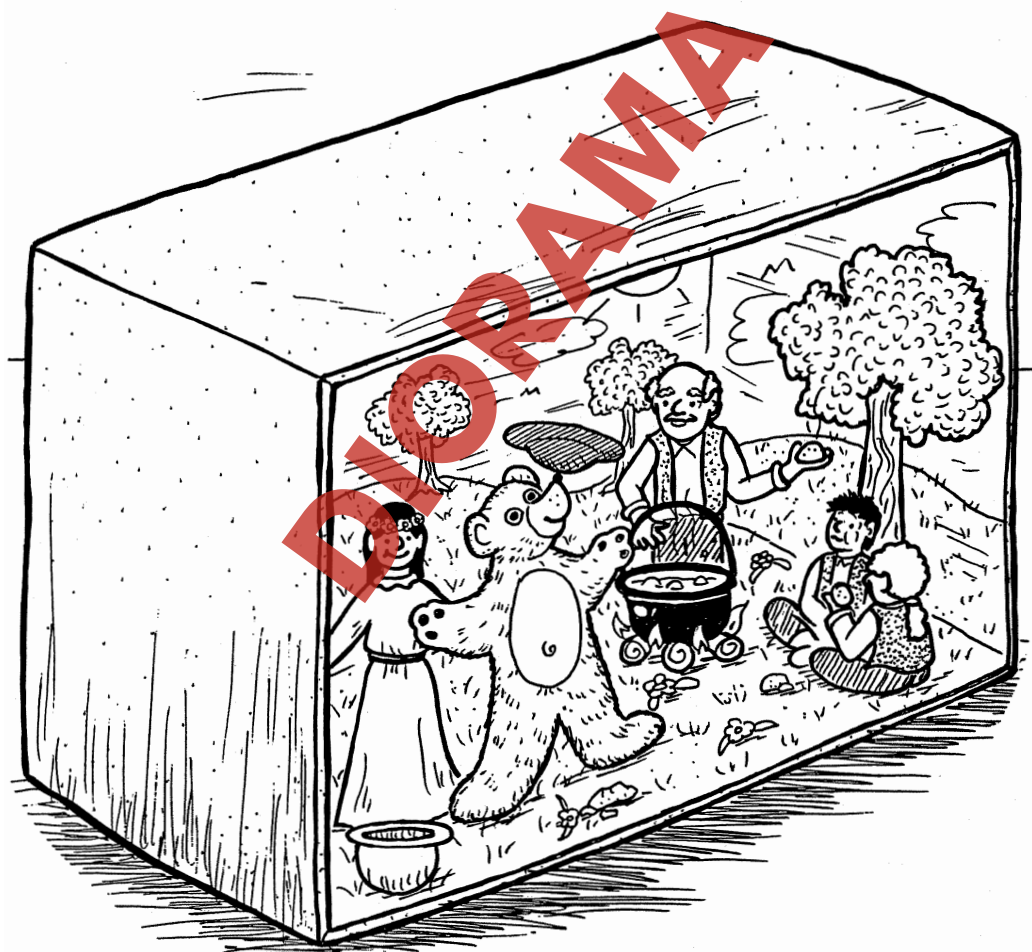
closing: Yours very truly,  
Doug Sylvester

CHAPTERS 19, 20 - Diorama



Use a shoebox or other similar-sized box to create a 3-dimensional picture of your favourite part of the story. Try to include a background, a foreground, and as many details as possible. Your teacher will supply you with materials and you may bring materials from home.

Materials - construction paper, craft sticks, play dough, toothpicks, string, paint, cardboard, small rocks, twigs, plastic toys, etc.



**CHAPTERS 11, 12, 13, 14 - Vocabulary**



Complete the following word search puzzle, then find and write the definitions for the words on the back of this paper. The words may be found vertically, horizontally, or diagonally, but not backwards.

R V V B B Q W D J Z K D P G O  
 U X F B A R N A C L E A B A R  
 H G J H I U S M I R K S E Z H  
 S U P Z O M G I B L N P K A P  
 Q J O F F O P H R A I E Q U K  
 B S N S J O G O I N F Q W H D  
 B O D S F U F F S Y Y Q J G Y  
 C W E Y O M F O T T N Q E E Q  
 D Y R R E U G H L T E U L W X  
 W U O O R A G V E I K R T U A  
 F H T V R U L P D W A I K U X  
 T W J Z A J K R F P B G U Q V  
 J H F N N D I W M D Q H E B U  
 E T R T D Z W W R L A G K R V  
 M O Z E F F N K V G U Z R X L

barnacle  
 thoroughbred  
 confound  
 errand

foliage  
 bristled  
 imposter  
 naughty

parley  
 fury  
 ruffians  
 smirk

snipe  
 ponder  
 wail

**11, 12, 13, 14 Vocabulary:**

R V V B B Q W D J Z K D P G O  
 U X F B A R N A C L E A B A R  
 H G J H I U S M I R K S E Z H  
 S U P Z O M G I B L N P K A P  
 Q J O F F O P H R A I E Q U K  
 B S N S J O G O I N F Q W H D  
 B O D S F U F F S Y Y Q J G Y  
 C W E Y O M F O T T N Q E E Q  
 D Y R R E U G H L T E U L W X  
 W U O O R A G V E I K R T U A  
 F H T V R U L P D W A I K U X  
 T W J Z A J K R F P B G U Q V  
 J H F N N D I W M D Q H E B U  
 E T R T D Z W W R L A G K R V  
 M O Z E F F N K V G U Z R X L

**14 Questions:**

1. Castle knows that the Prince can't even sign his own name, which means he wouldn't be able to write a letter. 2. He sees a young girl, about 14 or 15, and she is heading to the fair with her famous dancing bear. The bear got loose and she is looking for

**11, 12, 13, 14 Questions:**

7. 5. Drawings will vary.

**11, 12, 13, 14 Chapter Titles:**

**15, 16, 17, 18 Vocabulary:**

7. 5. 9. 6. 6. 7. 2. 8. 5. 9. 4. 10. 10.

**15, 16, 17, 18 Questions:**

1. He saves in river mud for items of value. 2. He is the Hot-Potato-Man and is heading to the fair with a wagonload of potatoes and a He had dreamed of seeing the Prince whipped; but now that it was happening, he found no satisfaction in it.

**15, 16, 17, 18 Questions:**

1. was allowed to shake hands with a Prince. 5. Answers will vary.

**15, 16, 17, 18 A Letter to the Author:**

**19, 20 Vocabulary:**

1. d. 5. a. 6. d. 7. b.

**19, 20 Questions:**

1. They ended up working together to get away from Hold-your-nose Billy and Cutwater and became good friends. 2. Answers will be up stowing away on a ship full of criminals that was heading to an island that is called "Convict Island".

**19, 20 Story Sequel:**