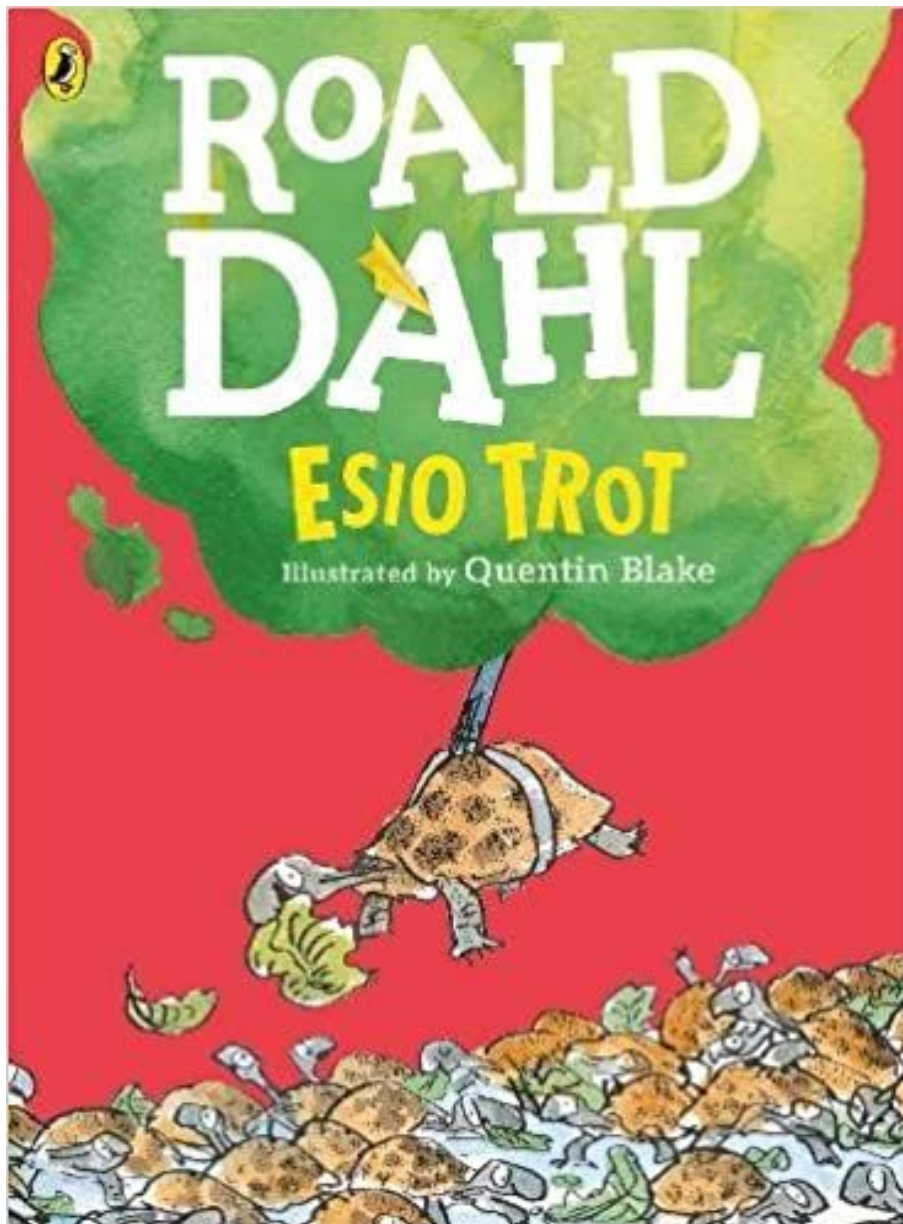


ESIO TROT, by Roald Dahl

Lesson 1

Before reading:

- Look at the front cover. What do you think the book will be about?
- What things can you see on the front cover?
- What sort of story will it be? Who might enjoy it?
- Now read the blurb – were any of your predictions correct?



1. PAGES 3-7 (BOOK) or 9-13 (PDF)

V:

- What does retired mean?
- What phrase on the first page shows that the flowers are beautiful?
- What does 'juttet' mean?
- What are 'endearments'?

I:

- How old could Mr Hoppy be? How do you know?
- Why did the distance feel like a million miles to Mr Hoppy?
- Why does Mr Hoppy want to do something such as save Mrs Silver?

P:

- At the end of the first page, predict Mr Hoppy's secret love.
- Predict whether Mr Hoppy will ever tell Mrs Silver that he secretly loves her.

E:

- Explain how Dahl makes you feel sorry for Mr Hoppy.

R:

- Where does Mr Hoppy live?
- Who lives below Mr Hoppy?
- Why hadn't Mr Hoppy told Mrs Silver that he loved her?
- Who does Mrs Silver love?

S:

- Sum up your first impression of Mr Hoppy in one word and explain your choice.

2. PAGES 8-12 (book) or 14-18 (PDF)

V:

- What is hibernating?
- Define 'beaming'.

I:

- Why do you think Mrs Silver puts hay in Alfie's house when he's hibernating?
- Why does Mr Hoppy's heart ache?

P:

- Predict what will change Mr Hoppy's life.

E:

- Explain what the illustrations add to these pages.

R:

- How does Mrs Silver keep Alfie safe?
- When does Mr Hoppy most wish he was a tortoise? Why?
- Who does Mrs Hoppy think is gorgeous?

S:

- Summarise Alfie's life in one word.

3. PAGES 13-17 (BOOK) or 19-23 (PDF)

V:

- Define 'solemnly'.
- What does envy mean? Can you think of any synonyms?

I:

- Why does Mrs Silver want Alfie to grow?
- Why was Mr Hoppy's mind spinning?
- What do you think was Mrs Silver's first thought about the note?

P:

- Predict Mr Hoppy's idea.

E:

- Why does Roald Dahl put *grow* in italics?

R:

- When does Mrs Silver weigh Alfie?
- How much does a grapefruit weigh?
- Where does Mr Hoppy claim to have heard the secret to making tortoises grow faster?
- Why does Mr Hoppy tie the note to string?

S:

- Sum up your impression of Mr. Hoppy in one word.

4. PAGES 18-22 (BOOK) or 24-28 (PDF)

V:

- What does it mean when something is 'obvious'?
- What does 'quivering' mean?

I:

- In what way is the note written?
- True or false: Mrs Silver is 'dubious' about the note working?
- Why is Mr Hoppy so excited?

P:

- Predict Mr Hoppy's plan?

E:

- Explain whether you think Mr Hoppy is doing the right thing.

R:

- What is Esio Trot backwards?
- How does Mr Hoppy tell Mrs Silver to use the note?
- How did Mr Hoppy choose his tortoises?
- What do tortoises need feeding?

S:

- Summarise Mr Hoppy's plan in one word.

5. PAGES 23-27 (BOOK) or 29-33 (PDF)

V:

- What is 'enthusiasm'?
- Define 'swarming'.

I:

- Why didn't Mr Hoppy carry all the tortoises at once?
- Why was Mr Hoppy exhausted?
- Why did Mr Hoppy have to move across the room very carefully?

P:

- Again, predict Mr Hoppy's plan.

E:

- Do you like this book so far? Give reasons why.

R:

- How many tortoises did Mr Hoppy buy?
- What was Mr Hoppy's old job?
- What does Mr Hoppy make?

S:

- Sum up how the reader feels at this point of the book in one word.

Homework:

Imagine you are **Mr Hoppy** and **write a love letter** to Mrs Silver.

OR

Summarise the first half of the book in **4 sentences (one short paragraph)**.