

Text The Bittern Summary

This is a 12-page graphic novel about the conservation efforts of Dunedin farmer Henare Kāretu, who preserved a wetland in order to protect the habitat of the bittern. The text has been deliberately constructed to support a wide range of readers to understand its content. There are two to four illustrations per page, and text is provided as yellow-boxed snippets of narrated information or as speech bubbles for dialogue between the characters. There are compound sentences and some complex sentences that include subordinate clauses, for example, "We drove down the hill, not talking until we were almost there". There is also a colourful simile: "running around like headless chickens" and many instances of colloquial language: "C'mon", "heaps", "Wow".



Read the whole article from the journal

The Task explained.

Following a previous guided reading of the text, the students are revisiting the story. Their task is to discuss the author's message and find evidence of the author's attempts to influence readers. They have prepared for this discussion by considering the question: What big messages is the author giving us and how has she put forward her point of view? The students have been exploring the concept of how flight exists in nature. All the students, when reading either text, are using the facts and opinions presented to formulate their own opinions backed up by information from the text.

Reference Noonan, Diana. 2012. The Bittern. School Journal Story Library, level 3. Wellington: Learning Media for the Ministry of Education.

Student Task: Your task is to discuss the author's message and find evidence of the author's attempts to influence or persuade readers of their point of view.

Student response: