



The Way Past Winter

Written by Kiran Millwood Hargrave

The Way Past Winter is an adventure packed fantasy tale and perfect for a winter read with older students. Family strength, love and determination are at the heart of this enchanting story.

READ

Before: Introduce the book and tell the students a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, what do you think this story is about? Encourage a discussion so the students can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

I wonder where they are headed out in the snow?

During: Encourage the students to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Students gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in everyday conversation) and help the students relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words

magicians - wizards or magicians

mewling - soft cry or whimper

pathetic - very bad, poor or weak

begudge - to think that someone does not deserve something

carrion bird - a vulture type bird that eats the flesh of dead animals

discern - to come to know, recognize or understand (something)

After: Who is Eldbjørn, and what became of him?

What happened in the forest's thousandth year?

Oskar, Sanna, Mila and Pipa are struggling and on their own. What happened to their parents?

How long did winter last in the Eldbjørn forest?

When the unnamed man and his young companions stopped by the children's home, what did they tell Oskar they needed?

What do the sisters do when they wake up and discover Oskar has disappeared?

What do the sisters learn when they visit the next town?

Who offers to take brave Mila on a journey to find her brother?

Why did Papa leave his children?

What happened to the sacred heart tree when Papa left?

What do you think life was like when they returned home with Papa?



DO

Write your own Winter Fantasy Tale

Things to include:

- Animals and people real or imaginary.
- Include a fantasy location or imaginary setting.
- Does anyone in your story have any superpowers?
- How many years will your story span? Do you want to include time travel?



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