

Approach: Station

Focus: Identifying central ideas

Resources: Recording book, highlighter pen

Questions / instructions:

Look at the story about Shrek, the sheep.

1. Use the highlighter pen to mark **one** sentence in **each** paragraph that tells something interesting **about Shrek**.

Shrek, The Very Woolly Sheep

The story of Shrek the sheep is known by lots of people. Shrek is such an interesting animal. Newspaper and television reporters were keen to tell the story about him. Shrek hadn't been shorn for about 6 years, and his wool weighed about 27 kg. Six years is a long time for any sheep to be growing its wool. Most sheep get shorn every year.

You might wonder why Shrek hadn't been shorn every year like the other sheep. He lived alone in a cave high in the hills where he wasn't seen. Each year dogs and people muster the sheep and bring them down from the hills. Because there are so many sheep, if one sheep is missing it wouldn't be noticed.

This year the sheep were mustered like every other year. The dogs and musterers were rounding up the sheep in the high country. Not all of the musterers were men. Some were women. It was a woman musterer called Ann Scanlan who found Shrek. Ann said that finding Shrek was one of the nicest things to happen to her.

Ann Scanlan grew up on a farm and has been mustering sheep for about 25 years. In that time she had seen lots of sheep that looked much the same. To see one that hadn't been shorn for six years was very unusual. Ann said that Shrek was a very strange looking wild sheep.

The sheep live on John Perriman's farm in a place called Tarras. He never had so many people interested in his sheep before. And now there were people from all over the world who wanted to visit John's farm. John was happy for people to see Shrek. The money from Shrek's wool would be used to help sick children.

**Part highlighted –****Paragraph 1:**

Third sentence (or part of it) and nothing else:

"Shrek hadn't been shorn for about 6 years, and his wool weighed about 27kg."

Paragraph 2:

Second sentence (or part of it) and nothing else:

"He lived alone in a cave high in the hills where he wasn't seen."

Paragraph 3:

Fifth sentence (or part of it) and nothing else:

"It was a woman musterer called Ann Scanlan who found Shrek."

Sixth sentence (or part of it) and nothing else:

"Ann said that finding Shrek was one of the nicest things to happen to her."

Paragraph 4:

Last sentence (or part of it) and nothing else:

"Ann said that Shrek was a very strange looking wild sheep."

Paragraph 5:

Last sentence (or part of it) and nothing else:

"The money from Shrek's wool would be used to help sick children."

Total score:		5–6	18	40
	4	16	18	
	3	18	16	
	2	18	12	
	1	16	7	
	0	14	7	

Commentary:

About 20 percent more year 8 than year 4 students selected an appropriate sentence in each paragraph.

% responses
y4 y8

58 72

52 76

24 38

31 33

32 47

44 60