TREND TASK

The Clumsy Tiger

Level: Year 4 and year 8

Access Task

Approach: Station

Focus: Recalling and interpreting details of a story.

Resources: Video on laptop computer.



Video script:

Once there was a tiger who lived in a forest in China. This tiger looked big and strong but really he was very slow and clumsy.

He tried hard but he could never catch enough food to eat. He just wasn't quick enough, so he was always hungry.

One day, the tiger watched a cat running through the forest. The tiger called to the cat, "You're so quick and clever. You can run and you can hide. You can jump from rock to rock. You can pounce and you can prowl. Can you teach me to be quick and clever like you?"

"All right," said the cat. "I'll teach you all I know. Meet me here tomorrow and we'll begin your lessons."

So every day the tiger came to see the cat, and every day the cat taught the tiger something new. Soon the tiger was no longer slow and clumsy.

He could run and jump and hide and pounce and prowl just as well as the cat.

Then one day the cat saw the tiger watching him with a hungry look. "That's it," said the cat. "I've taught you all I know. The lessons are over."

"Did you really teach me all you know?" said the tiger, getting ready to pounce on the cat.

But he wasn't quick enough. The cat had already climbed to the top of a very tall tree.

He called down to the tiger, "There was one more I was going to teach you but it's just as well I didn't!"

So now you know why tigers still can't climb trees.

Questions/instructions:	% responses 2002 ('98) 2002 ('98)		2. Tick the sentence
This activity uses the computer.	year 4	year 8	cat stopped teachi
Click on the button that says The Clumsy Tiger.			☐ The tiger had I wanted to kno ☐ The cat saw th
Click the Play button to hear the video. Only play the tape once.			him with a hur
1. Circle the words which say what			☐ The tiger did n anything else.
the tiger was like.			☐ The cat wanted somewhere els
big overweight weak quick			3. Did the cat trust th
fast contented slow clever			J. Did the cat trust tr
little clumsy strong hungry			yes at
Correctly circled: big	62 (62)	66 (61)	
slow	82 (83)	88 (83)	Why do you say th
clumsy	86 (85)	92 (89)	cat noticed
strong	35 (19)	42 (34)	
hungry	73 (78)	72 (59)	To
Incorrectly circled: 0 words	38 (44)	57 (63)	
1 word	30 (34)	19 (20)	
2 or more words	32 (22)	24 (17)	

	2. Tick the sentence that tells why the	% responses			
	cat stopped teaching the tiger.	2002 ('98)			
		year 4	year 8		
	☐ The tiger had learnt all he				
	wanted to know.				
	▼ The cat saw the tiger watching				
	him with a hungry look.	73 (75)	88 (82)		
	☐ The tiger did not want to know				
	anything else.				
	☐ The cat wanted to live				
	somewhere else.				
3. Did the cat trust the tiger?					
	no	70 (75)	65 (66)		
	yes at first but no later	11 (6)	20 (18)		
	yes	19 (19)	15 (16)		
	Why do you say that?				
	cat noticed the hungry look	29 (•)	34 (37)		
	Total score: 8-9	14 (13)	30 (25)		
	6-7	50 (55)	49 (50)		
	4-5	31 (28)	18 (19)		
	2-3	5 (4)	3 (6)		
	0-1	0 (0)	0 (0)		

Commentary:

About 15 percent more year 8 than year 4 students succeeded very well with this task. There was little change between 1998 and 2002, at either year level.