# Stone Fox – Reading Unit

**Developed by:** Linda Fenton

**Discipline / Subject:** Reading/Language Arts

**Topic:**

**Grade Level:** 3, 4, 5

**Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs:**
- Book: *Stone Fox* by John Reynolds Gardiner
- Activity Sheets Attached

**Unit Summary:**

Students will read the book *Stone Fox* about a dog, a boy, and their friendship. This works best for me with a classroom set of the book, but it can also be done as a read aloud. There are several activities attached including a Venn Diagram we use during the watching of the movie (the movie is incredibly different than the book). This is a great book for character study.

**Standard’s Addressed: (Local, State, or National)**

Common Core Standards Reading 3rd Grade
1. RL.3.1. Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

2. RL.3.3. Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

3. RL.3.6. Distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.

**Learning Objectives:**

Focus on characters.

**Method of assessment for learning**

- Activity Sheets
- Classroom Discussion
- Knowledge of Reading
### Procedural Activities

1. As mentioned previously, I read this book with students who have their own books. We read several ways (shared reading, independent), but I usually read the first chapter to introduce the book. Pass out the prediction sheet and we predict the second chapter together. From this point on, they predict independently. In third grade, the entire book takes about a week.

2. Can use the chapter assessments as you go, or create your own.

3. Character study – students should choose a character to follow. They can team up for same character choices to discuss how characters change throughout the book.

4. Some students will steam ahead because it is such an engaging book, but I tell them not to give away the ending. We read the ending together. Have tissue ready.

5. For book follow-up, students are given the “Book Response” activity sheet.

### Materials Students Need:

- Book *Stone Fox*
- Activity sheets (Attached)

### Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning:

There is a great Graphic Organizer for Characters, story map, setting, etc:


### Modifications for Special Learners/ Enrichment Opportunities:

Students may have to read book with an aide, teacher, or parent.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>WHAT I PREDICT WILL HAPPEN</th>
<th>WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td>You don’t have to write in this space for chapter 1.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Character Study - Stone Fox

What we think about, and how we feel about different characters in a book changes with each chapter we read. Record your reactions below.

Character: ________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter #</th>
<th>Characteristics and Observations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Book Response - *Stone Fox*  

Name_______________________________

The five most important characters in this book are:

1. ____________________________  

2. ____________________________  

3. ____________________________  

4. ____________________________  

5. ____________________________  

Write a paragraph (or two) that tells what you thought of the book, *Stone Fox*. Give details to support your opinion.

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________
Which character did you like best? Tell why.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Why do YOU think the author titled the book Stone Fox?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Would you have changed the ending or kept it the same? Tell why.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Chapter 1

1. Little Willy and his grandfather owned a ______________ farm.

2. Why did Little Willy oversleep?

______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

3. Little Willy's dog's name is (circle the correct answer):

   Searchlight  Spot  Fenton  Rover

4. Doc Smith is an older woman. How can you tell?

______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

5. What did Doc Smith say was wrong with grandfather?

______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
Name________________________

Chapter 2

1. How old is Little Willy (circle)?
   8  10  12  14

2. Why did Doc Smith’s horse take off?
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________

3. What happened that was “almost like talking”?
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________

4. If Grandfather holds up 2 fingers it means (circle correct answer):
   hunger    thirst    no    yes

5. What is a “strongbox”? What did Little Willy find there?
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
(Chapter 2 cont.)

6. How did Little Willy harvest the field?

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

7. What do you think Grandfather is worried about?

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________
1. Describe winter in Wyoming.

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

....................................................................................................................

2. How many miles was it from the farm to school? (circle correct answer)

5 miles 10 miles 15 miles 20 miles

3. Why did Grandfather call town people “city slickers”? (circle correct answer)

They didn’t know a potato from a peanut.

Their hands were pink and soft as a baby’s.

They looked like they were going to a wedding.

All of the above.
4. What happened when the church clock struck 6?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

5. Why did the author use these words: “the sled seemed to lift off the ground and fly”? (circle correct answer)

To show how high up in the sky Little Willy and Searchlight were.

To show how fast Little Willy and Searchlight were going.

To show how high the ground was.

To tell how Little Willy became an astronaut.
1. What is a derringer?  (circle correct answer)
   
   gun  kind of potato  shopping bag  dog

2. Why was the man pointing it at Searchlight?
   
   ________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________

3. Why was the man at the farm?
   
   ________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________

4. Where did Little Willy find the letters?  (circle correct answer)
   in the attic  in the strongbox
   in the kitchen  in the barn

5. How much money do they owe in taxes?  (circle correct answer)
   $100.00  $200.00  $300.00  $500.00
That afternoon Little Willy stepped into the bank wearing his blue suit and his blue tie. His hair was so slicked down that it looked like wet paint. He asked to see Mr. Foster, the president of the bank.

Mr. Foster was a big man with a big cigar stuck rite in the center of his big mouth. When he talk, the cigar bobbed up and down, and Little Willy wonder why the ash didn’t fall off the end of it.

Little Willy showed Mr. Foster the papers from Grandfather’s strongbox and told him everything Clifford Snyder, the tax man, had said.
Chapter 6

1. “Little Willy left the bank with a stack of ten dollar gold pieces – five of them to be exact.” Write an equation and answer for this.

2. “When Little Willy stepped out of the city hall building, he felt ten feet tall.” Why does the author say this? (circle correct answer)

   To show how tall Little Willy was.

   To show how proud Little Willy was of himself.

   To show that he would have to duck his head to get through the door.

3. What are Samoyeds? (circle correct answer)

   Dogs  Native Americans  Bankers  Name of Race

4. Describe Stone Fox.

   ______________________________________________________________________

   ______________________________________________________________________

   ______________________________________________________________________

   ______________________________________________________________________
5. How many sleds were entered in the race? (circle correct answer)

   3   6   9   12

6. Why were there only this number of sleds in the race?

   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
Chapter 7

1. Why did Little Willy go to town? (Circle correct answer)
   
   Grandfather was out of medicine.
   
   To practice one more time before the race.
   
   He was hungry.
   
   He needed more dogfood.

2. Would you have gone into the barn? Why or why not?

   _______________________________________________________________________
   
   _______________________________________________________________________
   
   _______________________________________________________________________

3. What did Stone Fox do to Little Willy? (Circle correct answer)

   He offered him a Pepsi.
   
   He shook his hand.
   
   He tried to talk him out of doing the race.
   
   He hit him.
Chapter 7 (Continued)

4. Why do you think Stone Fox did that to Little Willy?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

5. What do you think is going to happen in the race?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________