

The Great Panda Tale

- 1** On pages 6 and 7, Louise gives her opinion about animals. Summarise her opinion, and then summarise your own. Do you share Louise's interest?
- 2** Why was Zhen Mei's pregnancy such good news for the zoo? Give two reasons.
- 3** Look at these sentences from page 12: 'A few minutes later, one vet gave a thumbs-up. A huge cheer went up. A new baby panda was on the way!' What caused the vet to give a thumbs-up, and what was the effect of him doing this?
- 4** How is this book like a diary? Think about how the events connect to each other and how the text is written.
- 5** How many fact boxes are there in this book? How have they been presented? Do you think they are an effective way to break up the information in the book?
- 6** Write a book review of *The Great Panda Tale*. Include a short summary of what happens, your own opinion of the book and one example of why that is your opinion.
- 7** Compare the contents and the glossary. Which one would be more useful if you wanted to find facts about zookeepers quickly? Why is that?

Answers

- 1** Louise loves animals. Answers will vary.
- 2** (Two of these options:) No panda cubs had ever been born in the zoo before (page 8). Pandas are endangered, and there are very few in the wild (page 12). The zoo wanted to help captive pandas to have babies (page 13).
- 3** The vet gave a thumbs-up because a new baby panda was on the way. The effect of the vet doing this was that people cheered.
- 4** The events in the book are in the order in which they happened (chronological order), and the text is written from the point of view of the main character (in the first person).
- 5** There are six fact boxes. They are blue boxes with headings and have pictures attached.
Answers will vary. Example answers: They are effective because they separate extra facts that aren't part of the story. / They aren't effective because they are distracting from the order of the events.
- 6** The review should summarise, at the least, that a panda at a zoo became pregnant and had twin cubs. The other inclusions will be subjective.
- 7** The glossary would be more useful as the pages mentioning zookeepers are listed, and/or zookeepers aren't mentioned in the contents.