“The Ravine” Anticipation Guide

I. Preview Questions

1. Consider the title. What is a ravine?

2. What kind of decisions do you think the characters will have to make?

3. Read the first three paragraphs. Where does the story take place?

4. What had happened in the ravine only two weeks earlier?

5. What might this tell us about the setting?

6. As you read, pay attention to the setting and how it affects the characters.

II. Vocabulary

1. Ravine
2. Descent
3. Resemble
4. Gnarly
5. Scowl
6. Wince
7. Murky
8. Reluctantly
9. Decompose
10. Dense
11. Scoff
12. Vanish
13. Penetrate
14. Hank
15. Rivulet
16. Cascade
17. Precipice
18. Plead
19. Emerge
20. Vast
1. **Ravine** - a deep narrow steep-sided valley  *ex. We hiked through a ravine deep in the jungle.*
2. **Descent** - a movement downward  *ex. The descent from the mountain took hours.*
3. **Resemble** - to look like or be like  *ex. He resembles his father.*
4. **Gnarly** - bent or bumpy  *ex. The gnarly branch was a great scratching post for my cat.*
5. **Scowl** - to look at someone or something in a way that shows anger or disapproval  *ex. Mr. Brown scowled at her misbehavior.*
6. **Wince** - to flinch or startle as in pain or distress  *ex. Joe winced at his injured arm.*
7. **Murky** - very dark or foggy; not clear  *ex. We couldn’t tell what was at the bottom of the murky lake.*
8. **Reluctant** - not willing to do something; showing doubt about doing something  *ex. He was reluctant to try a new sport.*
9. **Decompose** - to cause something (such as dead plants and bodies of dead animals) to be slowly destroyed and broken down by natural processes  *ex. Bacteria helps to decompose organic matter.*
10. **Dense** - hard to pass through because of heavy growth  *ex. They cut a path through the dense jungle.*
11. **Scoff** - to mock  *ex. Sarah scoffed at her brother.*
12. **Vanish** - to disappear entirely without a clear explanation  *ex. The missing girl vanished without a trace.*
13. **Penetrate** - to go through or into something  *ex. Radiation penetrates Earth’s atmosphere.*
14. **Hank** - a coiled or looped bundle of yarn or thread  *ex. Grandmother designed a beautiful quilt out of a hank of many colors.*
15. **Rivulet** - a small stream  *ex. Small rivulets trickled down the side of the cliff.*
16. **Cascade** - to flow or hang down in large amounts  *ex. The water cascades over the rocks.*
17. **Precipice** - a very steep side of a mountain or cliff  *ex. He stood at the edge of the precipice.*
18. **Plead** - to ask for something in a serious and emotional way  *ex. She begged and pleaded but he would not change his mind.*
19. **Emerge** - to come out into view; to rise or appear from a hidden place  *ex. The cat emerged from its hiding place behind the couch.*
20. **Vast** - very great in size or amount  *ex. The house was built on a vast piece of land.*
Guided Reading: “The Ravine”

1. How would you describe Joe-Boy?
   How does he treat Vinny?
   How does Vinny feel about being in the ravine? Why?

2. What did Vinny’s parents think about him going to the pond?
   How did Starlene and Joe-Boy get Vinny to go to the ravine?

3. What decision does Vinny have to make?
   How are both choices risky?
   Think about the setting and the other characters. How do they affect Vinny’s choices?

After Reading: “The Ravine”

1. Pair/Share guiding questions
2. Discuss last two guiding questions with whole class.
3. Setting/Character/Plot graphic organizer - buddy activity