**Lesson Title:** Stories Under the Sky: Guided Reading in Nature

**Age Group:** Primary 4 (Ages 7–8)

**Curriculum Links (NI Curriculum):**

* Language and Literacy: Reading – Comprehension, Enjoyment of Reading
* The World Around Us: Appreciation of the natural environment
* Personal Development and Mutual Understanding: Listening, Sharing, Respect

**Learning Objectives:**

By the end of the session, pupils will be able to:

* Engage with a text in a calm, natural setting.
* Develop comprehension skills through discussion and questioning.
* Connect themes from the story to the natural world.
* Work collaboratively and respectfully in a group.

**Materials Needed:**

Age-appropriate reading books or short story (group sets or shared copies)

Question prompt cards (literal, inferential and personal response) – if needed

**Lesson Outline (Approx. 1 Hour):**

**1. Introduction (10 mins)**

* Gather in a circle in a quiet outdoor space.
* Briefly introduce the story or text and set expectations for outdoor reading (listening, respect, care for books).

**2. Guided Reading (20 mins)**

* Read aloud to the group or have pupils take turns reading in small groups.
* Pause at key points to ask questions using prompt cards:
* “What do you think will happen next?”
* “Why did the character do that?”
* “Have you ever felt like that?”

**3. Nature Connection Activity (15 mins)**

* Link the story to the environment:
* If the story involves animals, ask pupils to look for signs of wildlife.
* If it’s about a journey, ask them to imagine the character walking through the forest.
* Pupils can draw a scene from the story using natural materials or sketch it.

**4. Reflection and Sharing (10 mins)**

* Pupils share their favourite part of the story or something they noticed in nature.
* Discuss how reading outdoors felt different from reading in the classroom.

**5. Wrap-Up (5 mins)**

* Collect materials and leave no trace.

**Extension Ideas:**

Create a nature-themed reading journal.

Invite pupils to bring in a favourite book to read outdoors next time.

Link to creative writing by having pupils write their own nature-inspired story – The Rainforest – next year perhaps