

Lots of Feathers

GOALS

Comprehension

Discuss possible reasons for the author writing this text, e.g. passion for birds; to share information; to stimulate interest.

Vocabulary

Focus High-frequency Words: and, fly, have, help, off, or, they, when

Focus Content Words: birds, dry, feathers, fluffy, keep, oily, tail, warm, ways, wings

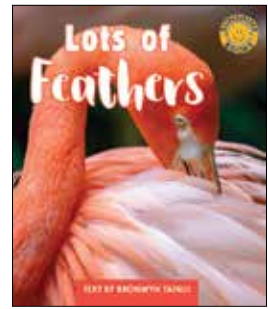
Phonics

Letters and Sounds: Recognise and produce words that end with -ing (present tense)

Words to Blend and Segment: flying, hiding, keeping, showing, using

Fluency

Choral reading with students pointing to the words as they are read.



Birds use their feathers in different ways.

Before Reading

- Have students look at the cover. Explain that this is a flamingo. Ask: What is the flamingo doing? Notice the different shades of pink. What do you know about feathers?
- Start a Before and After chart. On the left side students make a web about what they already know about feathers.
- Read the title together. Discuss what students notice in the pictures on the cover and title page. (colours of the feathers, many layers)
- Ask: Is this book fiction or non-fiction? How do you know? What is the difference?
- Help students use the title of the book and cover illustration to make predictions about what the text will be about. Read the table of contents to give an idea.
- Talk/walk through the pictures. Notice the different uses for feathers. Discuss what birds are associated with the uses on each page. Bring words like *birds, dry, feathers, fluffy, keep, oily, tail, warm, ways, wings* into the conversation.

Reading the Text

- Read the cover and the title page together. On pages 2–3, ask: What are the different ways that feathers are used? Look for tricky words like *showing, keeping, flying*. Break the words into chunks or syllables. e.g. keep/ing Read the text together, pointing to the words as they are read.
- On pages 4–5, discuss the picture. Find the words *fluffy* and *down* in the text. Talk about the meaning of *down feathers*. Read the words together.
- Follow this pattern for each page discussing the pictures, what the different uses are before reading each page. On page 16, look at the index and find the page where there is more information about down feathers.
- Students ask a partner questions about the index, e.g. what page is hunting on?

After Reading

Check on the accuracy of students' predictions. Invite them to discuss the information.

Prompt if needed.

- Re-tell the text using the pictures on each page as a guide. Discuss the different types of feathers and what they are used for and how they help the birds.
- Discuss possible reasons for the author writing this text, e.g. passion for birds; to share information; to stimulate interest.
- What have you learnt from this book? Summarise the information in a two-column chart with the headings: Type of feather; Use (e.g. oily/slide on ice).
- Ask students how feathers can help us. (Keep us warm.) How are they used for people today? (pillows, sleeping bags, jackets) Would there be down or oily feathers in them?
- Look at the design on the page numbers. What is it? What does this feature add to the book?
- Look at the back cover? What do you think the bird is using its feathers for? (showing off)

Phonics

- Write the words *flying, hiding, keeping, showing, using* on the board to practise blending and segmenting the onsets and rimes, e.g. /fly/- ing, flying. Brainstorm verbs with -ing to add to the list. Remind students of the rule when the verb ends in e, drop the e before adding -ing.

Word Study

- Talk about the words *and, fly, have, help, off, or, they, when* from the inside front cover. Read them together. Ask students to read these words and discuss their meaning in context.
- Students draw a picture of one of the birds in the book. They write the matching sentence from the text, e.g. page 14, *Some birds use feathers to hide.*
- Find the word *bird's* on page 10. Notice the apostrophe. What does it mean? (the wing and tail feathers belong to the bird) Students practise using the possessive apostrophe and explaining its meaning with a partner. e.g. Here is Sam's pen. (the pen belongs to Sam)
- Students find words in the text that start with fl. (*flying, fly, fluffy*) Discuss the two letters they start with. /f/ /l/ fl Think of more words starting with fl (flame, flow, flip, flash, flick).
- Make a timeline showing fluffy at one end and oily at the other. Find words to go in between. e.g. sticky, slimy, rough.
- Students listen and identify syllables in words and clap as they are spoken, e.g. *beaut/i/ful*. Together listen for one-syllable words in the book to clap, e.g. *wing, tail*. Have students clap two syllable words, e.g. *us/ing, feath/ers*.

Fluency

- Choral reading with students pointing to the words as they are read. Use intonation to make the words sound interesting and meaningful.
- In pairs, have students choose a spread and read to each other, making sure the words make sense when read.

Writing

- Students make a web "What I learnt about Feathers" with the page numbers for reference. Finish the After part on the right side of the Before and After chart to share with the class.
- Have students make a poster with a partner showing the uses of feathers. They illustrate and write captions. e.g. down feathers – keep warm, line nests. They share this with the class.