



Author: Melissa Stewart
Illustrator: Sarah S. Brannen

Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2014.
32 pages
AR Level: 5.1 Lexile: 910

Curriculum Connections: *Natural sciences, seasons, art, animal features and adaptations, birds, and examples of similes.*

Excellent as a read-aloud; very visual with headings and optional sidebars for close reading, also similes and vocabulary.

[Author's website and teacher's guide](#) online includes literature, math and science lesson plans, as well as links to standards.

A beautiful and engaging title that combines elements of a scrapbook, nature journal and informational text. Readers will discover 16 birds and what makes each species special - feathers!

This book will appeal to young naturalists and fact hounds, as well as those interested in art. A good read-aloud; it's possible to read in parts without losing meaning.

Text Features: Illustrations, captions, sidebars, author's note, and guidelines for collecting samples from nature.

Text compares feathers to objects--*Feathers can help birds float like a life jacket*--while sidebars, pictures and captions give further information--*Mute swans glide smoothly across the water's surface. Pockets of air trapped between their feathers help these graceful birds stay afloat.*

CCSS for Primary Grades

- *RI.2.6 Identify the main purpose of a text, including what the author wants to answer, explain, or describe.*
- *RI.2.9 Compare and contrast the most important points presented by two texts on the same topic.*
- *RI.3.2 Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.*
- *RI.3.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language.*

CCSS for Intermediate Grades

- *RI.3.9 Compare and contrast the most important points and key details presented in two texts on the same topic*
- *RI.4.1 Refer to details and examples when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.*
- *RI.4.7 Interpret information presented visually . . .and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text in which it appears.*
- *RI.5.1 Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.*

TOWNER AWARD NOMINEE BOOKS FOR 2016

Lesson Ideas	Text Set Options
Primary:	
<p>Become a naturalist: students create an observational notebook of animals and/or birds in their yards or at a park.</p> <p>As a class create a chart of bird-sightings.</p> <p>As an introduction to animal adaptations, guide students in identifying how each bird shows a different adaptive feature.</p> <p>Guide students in creating a list of the many different jobs that feathers do for birds.</p>	<p><i>One Small Place in a Tree</i> by Barbara Brenner HarperCollins 2004 AR 3.4 Lexile 610</p> <p><i>The Great Graph Contest</i> by Loreen Leedy Holiday House 2005 No AR Lexile 310</p> <p><i>Sparrow, Eagle, Penguin and Seagull: What is a Bird?</i> By Brian P. Cleary Millbrook Press 2013 AR 2.7 Lexile 560</p> <p><i>Birds</i> by Kevin Henkes Greenwillow Books 2009 AR 2.1 Lexile 410</p> <p><i>United Tweets of America</i> by Talbott Hudson Penguin 2008 AR 4.9 Lexile 490</p> <p><i>Two Blue Jays</i> by Anne Rockwell & Megan Halsey Walker & Company 2003 AR 3.4 No Lexile</p>
Intermediate:	
<p>Ask students to watch birds for 15 minutes and record information such as how many were seen, where the birds were spotted, size or type of birds, and behavior.</p> <p>Introduction to birds: create a Venn diagram comparing and contrasting each kind of bird.</p> <p>Introduction to similes: note that each heading sentence is a simile. Students can create their own similes either as a group or partner project and share them with the class.</p> <p>Discuss and investigate the author's warning about collecting specimens from wild birds. Contact and interview a local Fish and Wild Life expert.</p>	<p><i>A Place for Birds</i> by Melissa Stewart Peachtree 2015 AR 5.2 Lexile 970</p> <p><i>Look Up! Bird-Watching in Your Own Backyard</i> by Annette LeBlanc Cate Candlewick 2013 No AR Lexile 810</p> <p><i>How Many Ways Can You Catch a Fly?</i> by Steve Jenkins & Robin Page Houghton-Mifflin 2008 AR 6.3 Lexile 1060</p> <p><i>Island: A Story of the Galapagos</i> by Jason Chin Roaring Brook Press 2012 AR 5.8 Lexile 900</p> <p><i>Animals in Flight</i> by Steve Jenkins Houghtin Mifflin 2001 AR 5.2 No Lexile</p> <p><i>Crazy Like a Fox: A Simile Story</i> by Loreen Leedy Holiday House 2008 AR 2.8 No Lexile</p> <p><i>Stubborn as a Mule and Other Silly Similes</i> by Nancy Loewen Picture Window Books 2011 AR 3.3 Lexile 580</p> <p><i>The Cuckoo's Haiku and other Birding Poems</i> by Michael J. Rosen Candlewick 2009 No AR or Lexile</p> <p><i>Cornell Lab of Ornithology: All About Birds</i> http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/search ScienceNetLinks: Bird Beaks http://sciencenetlinks.com/lessons/bird-beaks/</p>