

## Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource

## Book Notes

**Why Animals Never Got Fire**

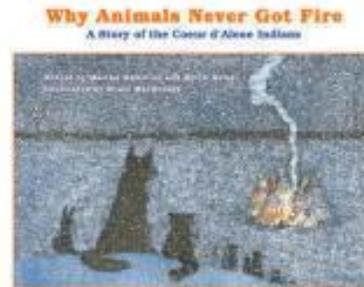
Retold by Martha Hamilton and Mitch Weiss

Illustrator Bruce MacDonald

12 pages ■ 237 words

Fountas and Pinnell Level J

Reading Recovery Level 19



Why Animals Never Got Fire

**SYNOPSIS**

A story told by the Coeur d'Alene Indians explaining why animals still shiver in the forest on winter nights without fire to warm them.

**WHAT THE BOOK OFFERS**

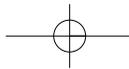
- Opportunities for prediction, retelling, sequence of events
- Use of various punctuation marks
- Moderate picture support
- Strong sight word support with new and unfamiliar words embedded
- Reflective story line that can lead to discussions and storytelling

**POSSIBLE SKILLS EMPHASIS**

- Problem/solution
- Written conversation
- Prediction & retelling

**INTRODUCING THE BOOK**

*Let's study the cover. What do you think the animals are thinking and saying as they look down on the little Indian village? What season is it? How would you feel if you were one of the animals in this scene? Let's look at the picture on pages 6 and 7 and make a prediction. Where do you think the dog is going and why? Listen while I read what the author wrote About the Story on the inside back cover of this book. Why do you think people like making up stories that explain why things happened? What's the title of this book again? Let's read to find out why.*



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### Why Animals Never Got Fire (continued)

#### FOCUS OF INSTRUCTION

- Pages 2 and 3: *What is happening in these two pictures? Now let's read to find out what Wolf does NOT think is fair for the animals.*
- Pages 4 and 5: *What problem did the animals have? Can you think of some ways they could solve this problem? Read until you find out who had an idea to solve the problem. What was the possible solution? Do you think it's going to work? What makes you think that?*
- Pages 6 through 9: *Look at the expression on Dog's face on page 9. What do you think he is thinking? Read those pages to find out.*
- Page 10 and 11: *Read to find out if Dog brought fire back to Wolf and the other animals. Did the solution work? Why not? Which words on pages 10 and 11 tell you what happened to Dog.*
- Page 12: *How would you feel if you were one of the animals in that picture? Do you think this is really the reason why animals are cold on winter nights in the forest? Why or why not?*

#### FOLLOWING THE READING

- ■ Students can turn this story into a Readers' Theater to build fluency, visual tracking skills, expression, and writing skills. They would write a script that keeps the basic framework of the story while adding more commentary from different animals plus descriptive lines for a narrator.
- After reading **Tips for Storytelling** on the inside back cover, students could practice telling the story to a buddy using some of the tips to retell it in their own words. They may even want to record themselves or practice telling this story to younger students in the school.

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## Why Animals Never Got Fire (continued)

Additional Comprehension Prompts For Oral or Written Use Before, During, and After Reading	
<b>FINISH THIS THOUGHT</b>	<i>According to this story, animals still shiver in the forest because . . . If I were wolf, I would feel . . .</i>
<b>USE YOUR MEMORY</b>	<i>Why did dog leave the forest? Check on page 6 to see if you were right. Why did dog stay with the people? How do you know?</i>
<b>WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?</b>	<i>What do you think the problem was in this story? Was there a solution? Why do you think that? Why do you think dog didn't go back to his friend wolf in the forest? Do you agree with his decision? Why or why not?</i>
<b>BE CREATIVE</b>	<i>Change the ending to this story so that the wolf, dog, and the other animals don't shiver in the cold any more. Start on page 9 with the phrase, "When it was time to go to sleep..." Finish that and keep going so that you change the ending.</i>
<b>VOCABULARY AGENT</b>	<i>Start on page 2 and write down every word in the story that ENDS with <b>s</b>, <b>ed</b>, and <b>ing</b>. How many words did you find? Choose 5 of these words and write a sentence using each one.</i>

Book Note by Dr. Connie Hebert

Additional Comprehension Prompts by Dr. Connie Herbert

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