

Book Notes

Dream Catcher

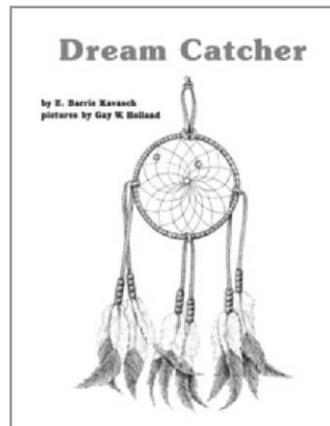
Author E. Barrie Kavasch

Illustrator Gay W. Holland

16 pages ■ 159 words

Fountas and Pinnell Level M

Reading Recovery Level 16



Dream Catcher

SYNOPSIS

A nonfiction book that explains why some Native Americans make dream catchers for their children.

WHAT THE BOOK OFFERS

- Nonfiction expository
- Third person
- Present tense
- Native American cultural perspective
- Complex sentences with introductory phrases
- Explanatory phrases set off with commas
- Commas in series
- Subtext—how to make a dream catcher

POSSIBLE SKILLS EMPHASIS

- Considering author's purpose
- Reading for information
- Summarizing information
- Identifying chunks of meaning for understanding and fluency
- Discussing dreams; dealing with bad dreams or nightmares
- Understanding Native American culture and beliefs about dreams, dream catchers, and role of family
- Following procedures—how dream catchers are made

INTRODUCING THE BOOK

- Discuss with students customs and traditions and their role in different cultures. Ask children to share what they know about dream catchers and what they expect the text to tell them about dream catchers.

Book Notes

Dream Catcher (continued)

FOCUS OF INSTRUCTION

- Pages 3 to 5: To help the children establish a purpose for reading, discuss what they have decided about the author's purpose for writing this book and their own understandings.

Do you have bad dreams sometimes? What do you think a dream catcher is? Why do you think the author wrote this book? What are you expecting from this book as you read on?

Pages 6 to 9: *What did you learn about dream catchers on these pages? How did the author and illustrator help you understand how dream catchers are made?* (procedural)

Pages 10 to 16: *Why did the author use commas on page 14? How do commas help the reader? What did the author help you understand about dream catchers? How would you summarize this book?*

FOLLOWING THE READING

In Dream Catcher, the author explained how dream catchers are made. Do you know how to make something? How could you explain how something is made? What did the writer do to explain how dream catchers are made? Could you write about it and explain to others how it is made?

- Students could write directions on how to make something.
- Read *Raven's Gift* from the **Books for Young Learners** collection with children to explore other aspects of Native American culture.
- Write about bad dreams and creative ways of dealing with them.



Book Notes

Dream Catcher (continued)

Additional Comprehension Prompts For Oral or Written Use Before, During, and After Reading	
FINISH THIS THOUGHT	<i>People like to hang dream catchers in their bedrooms because . . . The most interesting thing I learned from this book was . . .</i>
USE YOUR MEMORY	<i>How is a dream catcher made? Describe the steps, in order. Then check pages 6 and 7 to see if you forgot anything. What do America's native people believe about dreams?</i>
WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?	<i>Why do you think the author of this book wanted to study dreamwork? Read the Author's Note on the inside back cover and learn more about her. Why is a dream catcher always hung over a bed? Do you think it would be just as useful if it were hung in the kitchen or bathroom? Why or why not?</i>
BE CREATIVE	<i>Write a paragraph (5 – 7 sentences) about the little girl's dreams that is shown with drawings on pages 12 and 13. Make up the dreams, based on the drawings, and see what you come up with. Are there any bad dreams happening for that little girl and if so, how does the dream catcher help? When you are done, reread your paragraph and see if it MAKES SENSE and LOOKS RIGHT. If not, revise it.</i>
VOCABULARY AGENT	<i>Turn the following words from the story from singular (one) to plural (more than one):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>*dream</i> <i>*person</i> <i>*parent</i> <i>*grandparent</i> <i>*dream catcher</i> <i>*hoop</i> <i>*web</i> <i>*feather</i> <i>*stone</i> <i>*bead</i> <i>*child</i> <i>*story</i> <i>*edge</i>