

Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource

Book Notes



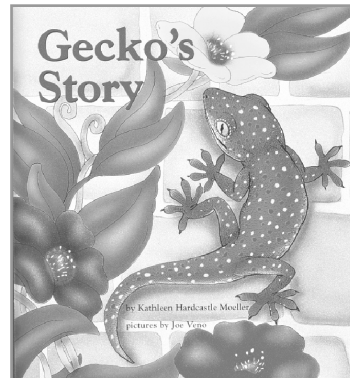
Gecko's Story

Author Kathleen Hardcastle Moeller

Illustrator Joe Veno

12 pages ■ 61 words

La historia de Geco ■ 70 words



Gecko's Story

Em	Early				Fluent			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
	S		G		I			

S = Shared G = Guided I = Independent

SYNOPSIS

An owl gets a surprise when he is left with a gecko's tail for his dinner.

WHAT THE BOOK OFFERS

- Fiction recount
- Third person
- Past tense
- Concise writing
- One incident
- One sentence per page, but a variety of sentence structures, including some book language
- Although the title implies that Gecko is telling the story, it is told in third person
- Extra information on page 12

POSSIBLE SKILLS EMPHASIS

- Attending to text detail
- Inferential reading, expanding the text to appreciate the inherent danger and trauma, to gain information about geckos, and to see how the gecko tricked the owl
- Using illustrations as a confirming rather than a predicting cue
- Coping with a range of sentence structures

Em	Early				Fluent			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
	S		G		I			

S = Shared G = Guided I = Independent

Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource

Book Notes



Gecko's Story (continued)

INTRODUCING THE BOOK

- If taken literally, the title could be misleading. The story is about Gecko, not told by Gecko.
- Use the cover illustration to establish what the group knows about geckos, avoiding detailed discussion about their ability to grow a new tail, because this would spoil the story line.

Gecko looks so happy and safe among the flowers. I wonder what he is thinking or planning.

Does he look as safe on the title page though? What might that tell us about the story?

What might have caused him to change from a happy, carefree creature to a frightened one peeping out of a hole?

FOCUS OF INSTRUCTION

- At first glance, the text may appear easy, but it requires slow, careful reading to understand how Gecko is tricking Owl and to capture the tension and drama of the incident. The concise writing and perspective may be unfamiliar to many students.
- Questions to help them expand the text and read beyond the words could include:

What might Owl be thinking as he sees Gecko?

What did the author want us to think about between pages 4 and 5?

And what about poor Gecko? Look at his face on page 5. What is he probably saying?

Do you think this is the first time he has been caught by an owl or one of his other enemies?

What is Owl thinking as Gecko is twisting and turning on pages 6 and 7?

FOLLOWING THE READING

How else could the author have written page 8?

Choose one of the pages in the book and think of another way the author could have said that.

Owl tricked Gecko when he suddenly swooped down on him, but how did Gecko trick Owl?

Could this have been a true story? Why or why not?

When else might it be helpful that Gecko could grow a new tail? Write about that incident. Try to use interesting sentences like the ones you read in the story.