

Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource

Book Notes



Pigeon Feathers

Author Sherry H. Bowen
 Illustrator Kathleen Kuchera
 16 pages ■ 477 words



Pigeon Feathers

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

S = Shared G = Guided I = Independent

SYNOPSIS

Legend of the American Indian people telling why the pigeon has gray feathers and why we should not try to change the way we are.

WHAT THE BOOK OFFERS

- Retelling of a legend of the American Indian people
- Third person
- Past tense
- Several incidents
- Repetition of longer-than-usual pattern
- Anthropomorphic
- Concept of “beautiful inside,” moral
- Text above and below illustrations
- Offers several layers of meaning

POSSIBLE SKILLS EMPHASIS

- Understanding structure of a legend
- Using pattern to predict text and increase fluency and expression
- Comparing and contrasting with *Raven’s Gift*, another American Indian legend in the **Books for Young Learners Collection** suggested for use at this level

INTRODUCING THE BOOK

- There is nothing on the cover to indicate that this is a retelling or a legend, so either use the note on the inside back cover and/or use the first sentence (Once upon a time, boast of something superior) to recall what the group already knows about the form. Discuss how this will help them predict the storyline and how the author will present it.

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Pigeon Feathers (continued)

FOCUS OF INSTRUCTION

- Developing fluency and expression through repetition of pattern.

Page 5: What comments do you have about the way this legend is structured? How will that help you as you read on?

When do you expect the pattern to change? What will that indicate?

- Identifying elements of legend and using these to predict forthcoming incidents and how they will be told.

How do you think this legend will end? What do most legends have on the final page? Do you expect the same from this one?

FOLLOWING THE READING

- Add to list of features of legends.
- Compare this list with that made for *Raven's Gift*
- Discuss the concept of "beautiful inside."
- Retell a legend from another point of view.