

Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource

Book Notes



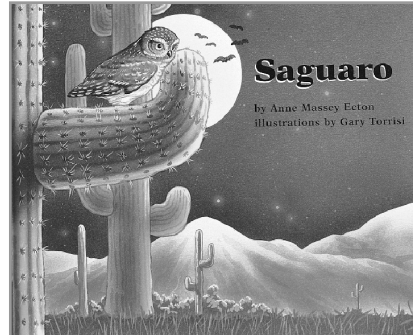
Saguaro

Author Anne Massey Ecton

Illustrator Gary Torrissi

12 pages ■ 44 words

Saguaro ■ 52 words



Em	Early				Fluent			
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S	G		I					

S = Shared G = Guided I = Independent

Saguaro

SYNOPSIS

A comparative description of a saguaro cactus.

WHAT THE BOOK OFFERS

- Nonfiction expository, describing what it is like
- Third person
- Present tense
- Illustrations extend text
- Comparative descriptions through opposites, synonyms, letter associations
- “But” and “or” as transitions
- Adjectives

POSSIBLE SKILLS EMPHASIS

- Comparing through predicting and confirming opposites
- Text detail—initial blend *pr-* and final sound *-y*
- Extending descriptive vocabulary

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Saguaro (continued)

INTRODUCING THE BOOK

- Use the cover illustration to recall and extend descriptive vocabulary of what things look like and to establish or extend understanding of opposites (smooth–prickly, dark–light, moving–still).
- Use “or” in oral discussion when comparing

FOCUS OF INSTRUCTION

- Extending understandings about descriptive vocabulary
- Emphasis on the ways words are linked through meaning, sound, and function, including:
 - Pages 2 and 3: opposites and “all”
 - Pages 8 to 11: all adjectives end with *-y*, and *pr-* for “pretty” and “prickly”
 - Use of “or” and “but”:

Why did the author choose to use “or/but” to join ideas?

FOLLOWING THE READING

- Discuss descriptive vocabulary
- Identify descriptive words. Make a word web to summarize text. Then extend out from each adjective with something else that fits the adjective, e.g., tall–skyscraper