

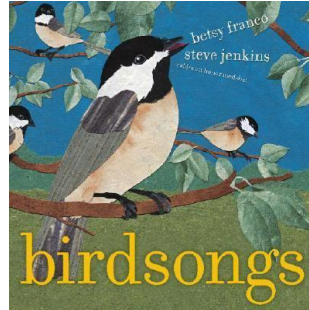
Books to Treasure

Birdsongs

Written by Betsy Franco & Illustrated by Steve Jenkins

2007

ISBN: 9780689877773



Language Arts

Lesson Plan by Marianne Stambaugh

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Focus: Students will focus on figurative language, particularly onomatopoeia as they read the sounds of the birds as they are written in the text. They will listen to the actual bird sounds and compare them to the written sounds.

Pa; Objectives:

- 1.1 Phonological/Phonemic Awareness
- 6.3 Identify figurative language & sound devices in writing.
- 7.1 Research and information

Activity: After reading the book together, discuss different uses of figurative language and then reread the story letting the children listen for examples. Focus on onomatopoeia as they read the sounds of the birds. Have the students imitate the sounds as written. Ask them what they know about the sounds of these birds from their own experiences and observations. The birds in this booklet may all be found the Tulsa area, although some are easier than others.

Lead the children to find sound files online of each bird's call. Two sites that have most of the calls of the birds in this book are these: <http://www.birdjam.com/birdsong.php?id=34>
<http://www.enature.com/birding/audio.asp> < last accessed 7/2010 >

After hearing the real bird calls, have students evaluate if the sounds written in the book imitate the actual sounds. Let them make their own words that imitate how they hear each bird's call.

Further activity:

Ask which birds in the book students have seen before. Ask them to look for them and report back to the class when they see one of the birds and tell where they saw it. As a class, make a graph of how many birds the class has sighted.

Game: Before you play, write the name of each bird and its sound on a piece of paper and put them in a box for children to select from. Go through each sound with the entire group and let them

imitate the bird calls together. Using two or three students at a time let them select a bird's name and make the sound while the group tries to guess which bird it is. Let whoever guesses it correctly tell you more about the bird if he/she can.

A variation is to have every child write the names of the birds on an index card or piece of paper and hold up the name when they hear the bird call.

The author's web site is found here: http://www.betsyfranco.com/birdsongs_58164.htm