

## Feathers Not Just for Flying

Second Reading: Text & Vocabulary

This reading will focus on the text and the vocabulary. There will be opportunities in this reading to connect the details in the illustrations to the information in the text. These connections will help add deeper meaning to the text.

\*Read the pages before you ask the questions.

There are many scientific terms in both the headings and the text boxes. Trust your judgement as to the number of vocabulary words that you discuss with your listener. Try to keep the story moving along.

### Pages 1 - 5:

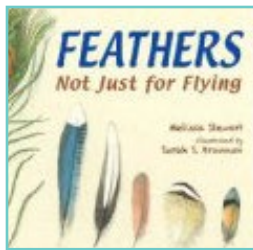
- On page 2, **fluffing up**: to puff out into an airy mass. Do you think that the blue jay in the illustration is **fluffing up** his feathers? Discuss.
- It looks like the season is winter. The winter air will be cold. How does the air next to the blue jay's skin get warm? (The blue jay's body warms the air that is trapped by the fluffed-up feathers.)
- On page 5, **pluck**: to pull with sudden force. How does the wood duck **pluck** her feathers?
- On page 5, **cushion**: to soften a surface. Looking at the Kinds of Feathers on pages 28 and 29, which kind of feather do you think would be the best to use to **cushion** the eggs in the wood duck's nest?

### Pages 6 - 9:

- On page 6, **reflection**: similar to a mirror showing an image back toward you. Discuss how the heron's wings help the heron find food. What does the phrase "block out **reflections**" mean? (block the glare from the sun) Find the part of the illustration where the feathers serve as an umbrella and block out the reflections from the sky.
- On page 9, **delicate**: sensitive, tender, soft. Looking at the setting, why might the hawk need thick feathers to protect its **delicate** skin?

### Pages 10 and 11:

- On page 10, **quench**: to satisfy a thirsty feeling. Why do you think the chicks don't go to the watering hole with their papa?
- On page 11, **brittle**: breaks very easily. Discuss how the bittern's **brittle** feathers help the bittern clean itself.



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### Pages 12 - 13:

- On page 12, **distracts**: causes you to stop paying attention. Talk about how the white tail feathers of the junco **distract** like the red of a bullfighter's cape. (Both confuse the attention of an attacking animal.)
- On page 13, **dull**: the opposite of bright, very plain. Why might it important for the female cardinal to have **dull** colored feathers? Discuss why some bird's feathers are **dull** and some bird's feathers are very bright.

### Pages 14 - 17:

- On page 15, is the manakin male or female? (male)
- Why might the peacock's display of feathers be called a "fan of feathers"? Who has the beautiful feathers, the female or the male?

### Pages 18 and 19:

- On page 18, **bill**: beak. How does the bank swallow use his **bill** and leg feathers?
- How is the lovebird different from most birds?

### Pages 20 - 23:

- On page 20, **graceful**: easy and beautiful movement. What words on this page describe the movements of the swan? (glide smoothly)
- On page 23, discuss what waterproof means. Are the feathers of the sandgrouse on page 10 waterproof?

### Pages 24 and 25:

- The penguins glide across the snow. Would you describe them as graceful?
- On page 25, **shuffle**: to move without lifting the feet. Would you describe the ptarmigan as graceful?

### Page 26 - End:

- On page 27, what does Ms. Stewart say is the most important job of feathers?
- Talk about the six different kinds of feathers. What is the main job of each kind of feather?
- Discuss whether the text answered all of the questions that you had from the First Reading.