



Feathers Not Just for Flying

First Reading: Illustrations

To allow the brain to focus on the information in the illustrations, this reading will look only at the illustrations and the headings, not the text boxes. There are no right or wrong answers in this reading. If you are numbering the pages in your book, page 1 is the first page of text.

Tell your listener that the feathers in the illustrations are paintings of real feathers and the size of the feather in the illustration is its real size.

Page 1:

- Look at the feathers and their labels. Do you or your listener recognize any of the feathers or any of the birds named?

Pages 2 - 5:

- On page 2, read the heading. Connect any details in the illustration to the heading. How are the feathers acting like a blanket for the blue jay?
- On pages 4 and 5, how can feathers cushion like a pillow? Which illustrations shows the feathers acting like a pillow?
- Remind the listener that the illustrations of the feathers are life-size.
- Your listener may or may not have any ideas about how the feathers act as a blanket. Talk about how the text will provide information to answer to many of the questions that you have. The text is the focus of The Second Reading.

Pages 6 - 9:

- How do the feathers seem to be like an umbrella?
- On page 8, look at the setting. (the desert, during the day) How are sunscreen and feathers alike?

Pages 10 - 11:

- Think about how sponges and scrub brushes work. Identify details in the illustrations to help infer how feathers could be like sponges and scrub brushes.



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Pages 12 - 13:

- On page 12, the comparison of the bull fighter's cape to the junco's feathers might be difficult. If your listener doesn't understand the connection between the bull fighter's cape and the junco's feathers, remind the listener that there will be lots of information in the text, during The Second Reading.
- On page 13, discuss how camouflage uniforms help soldiers blend into their surroundings for protection. Discuss how the cardinal is camouflaged.

Pages 14 - 17:

- Notice the different shape of the feathers in the illustration.
- Discuss how a whistle works. How might the feathers make a sound like a whistle?
- On page 16, why might the peacock want to attract attention?
- How are the feathers of the peacock and the feathers of the cardinal on page 13 different? (The cardinal's feathers serve as camouflage. The peacock's feathers are bright to attract attention.)

Pages 18 - 19:

- Identify and discuss the details in the illustrations that help explain how feathers can be used for digging holes and carrying supplies.

Pages 20 - 23:

- Discuss how the feathers of the swan might help the bird to float.

Pages 24 - 25:

- Looking at the illustrations, discuss how the penguin and ptarmigan feathers might help the birds travel on top of the snow.

Pages 27 - END:

- On pages 28 and 29, look at the Kinds of Feathers. What might the job of each kind of feather be?

There might have been many questions suggested above that your listener didn't have any ideas or opinions about. Review the questions that your listener is hoping that the text will answer during the Second Reading.