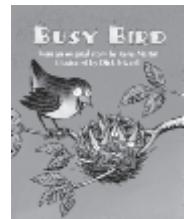


Busy Bird

from an original story by Kene Martin
illustrated by Dick Frizzell



Book Summary

A busy mother bird builds her nest, hatches her eggs, and feeds her chicks.

Features of the Book

- Clear, evenly spaced, two-word text.
- Consistent placement of text.
- Playful illustrations to support text.
- The high-frequency words – “Some” and “A.”
- The initial “b” consonant – “busy” and “bird.”
- The sequential nature of the visual story line.
- The use of “s” to denote the plural form – “twigs,” “eggs,” “heads,” and “chicks.”
- The use of the exclamation point on page 8.

Purpose

Busy Bird can be used in a guided reading setting to introduce the following skills and strategies:

- predicting the meanings of new or unfamiliar words from the context of the story;
- recognizing the relationship between letters and their sounds;
- pointing one-to-one at each word to ensure an appropriate match;
- writing a story that incorporates a similar model to that of the book.

Introducing the text

Look at the cover illustration and ask:

- Why is the bird so busy?
- Why do the chicks have their beaks open?
- Have you ever seen a bird's nest with eggs or chicks in it?

Say the title together. Read the names of the author and illustrator to the group.

Reading the text

- Predicting the meanings of new or unfamiliar words from the context of the story.
- Recognizing the relationship between letters and their sounds.

■ Pointing one-to-one at each word to ensure an appropriate match.

Title page

- Why is the mother bird looking so happy?

Pages 2 and 3

- What is the bird doing?
- Who can read the word that tells us what the bird has in her beak on page 2?
- Where is she taking the things she is picking up?

Page 4

- What has the bird built?
- How has it made the nest stay in the tree?

Page 5

- What has the bird got now?

Pages 6 and 7 – Ask questions that will prompt a range of responses from the readers.

- What has happened?
- What do you call baby birds?
- How does the mother bird feel?
- What will happen next?

Page 8 – Note the exclamation point and discuss. Children now read the book independently.

Revisiting the text

Look at the “ch” blend. List other “ch” words. Talk about why the author has used the exclamation point on page 8.

- How would you say these words?

Following Up

■ Writing a story that incorporates a similar model to that of the book.

■ Innovate on the story by making your own big book story using “some” as the starting word.

■ Complete the blackline master opposite.