

Night Noises

by Feana Tu'akoi

Summary

While staying with his granddad, Juan becomes frightened by an owl tapping a branch against his window. Granddad shows Juan the owl and tells him the story about how the owl got its feathers.

Features of the Text

- Myth within a realistic narrative
- Information about owls
- Interaction between the characters
- Style of the illustration for the myth

Purpose

Night Noises can be used for the following purposes:

- introducing the ideas and vocabulary in the associated nonfiction title;
- making personal connections with the text;
- discussing the purposes behind myths;
- exploring dialogue.

Guided Reading Summary

Introducing the text

– *Have you ever been frightened by noises in the night?*

Look at the cover of the book and discuss the title and illustration.

– *What might make the "night noises" in this story?*

Reading and discussing the text

Ask the students to read to the end of page 5.

– *What kinds of night noises might you hear in the country?*

– *What do you think could be frightening Juan?*

– *What clues does the author give us about the noises?*

The students can now read to the end of page 7 to confirm or review their predictions.

On page 7, Granddad talks about the screech owls of Puerto Rico. Ask the students to read to the end of page 11.

– *Why does Granddad have that mask?*

– *What does he mean when he says it has one feather from each bird?*

– *What kind of story do you think Granddad is going to tell?*

Discuss the students' predictions about the noises that are scaring Juan in the story.

– *Why do owls only come out at night?*

– *Do you know any other animals that come out at night?*

– *Why do you think people made up the story about the owls?*

– *Do you know any other myths that explain how an animal came to be the way it is?*

Following Up

The students can:

- research and present another myth that involves birds
- make a flow diagram of the events in the story to illustrate how the story moves backward and forward in time
- use the copy master on page 50 to write an imaginary conversation between a bird and the owl when the owl refuses to give the feathers back.