



HOW TO CATCH A STAR

AUTHOR: OLIVER JEFFERS

ILLUSTRATOR: OLIVER JEFFERS

See a video of the book read aloud here: [How to Catch a Star](#)

**** REMEMBER: HAVE FUN AND THE KIDS WILL TOO! ****

OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE BOOK

Once there was a boy and the boy loved stars very much. One day he decided he would catch one of his own, but first he'd need a plan...

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Oliver Jeffers is an artist and writer in proud possession of a pair of blue-and-white-striped shoes. Like most children, Oliver grew up with the dream of one day becoming a fisherman, but when he realized that this didn't involve a helmet and flying to the moon, he quickly changed his mind. Oliver learned to paint instead. Born in Port Hedland, Western Australia, and raised in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Oliver graduated from the University of Ulster in 2001 with a First Class Honors Degree in Visual Communication. His work has been exhibited in galleries and pubs around the globe. *How to Catch a Star* is Oliver's first book for children. He hopes that people the world over will be receptive to his artistic style, his small ears, and his blue-and-white-striped shoes. (book jacket)

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

(see above)

THE READ ALOUD

BEFORE READING

Use these before reading the story to help students activate background knowledge and make predictions:

- (cover) What's happening on the cover of this book?
- (cover) Do you remember this boy from other stories we've read?
- (title page) The author's name is Oliver Jeffers. He is also the author of other books we've read in here. Can you remember any? (Lost and Found; Up and Down)
- (title page) What is the red thing on this page?

DURING THE STORY

Use these while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content.

- (p. 6) Where are they walking? How can you tell?
- (p. 7) What is the boy doing with the clock? Why?

HOW TO CATCH A STAR

TOPICS & THEMES:

- Stars
- Friends
- Ideas
- Persistence

Tips for every book!

POWER PHRASES:

I WONDER...

I NOTICE...

TELL ME MORE...

DIGGING DEEPER:

"Tell me more, why do you think that?"

"How do you know that?"

"Why do you think they feel like that?"

"Interesting, did you notice anything else?"

- (p. 8) Why can't he see any stars?
- (p. 11) The boy is waiting a long time to see a star. This is called "patience". Have you ever heard that word? The boy has a lot of patience in this story.
- (p. 15-16) If the life preserver is too heavy (p. 16), how can the boy lasso the star on this page (p. 15)? (the boy is imagining on p. 15). The same thing happens on pages 17 and 18.
- (p. 22) What is that in the water? Is it real or a reflection?

AFTER READING

Use these after reading the story to help students understand what they just read.

- Where do you think the star on the sand came from?
- Was this story fiction (pretend) or non-fiction (real)? Why do you think that?

BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

- (p. 3) If you can see stars from where you are at night, raise your hands over your head.
- (p. 13) Michael Jordan can jump 48" – higher than your head, but not high enough to reach the stars.
- If you have ever found a sea star on the beach, show me your right hand.

COOPERATIVE LEARNING

- (p. 1-2) Let's count the stars in the sky.
- (p. 15) Talk with your neighbor to figure out what a life preserver is used for? Share your idea with the class.

SMALL-GROUP IDEAS

1. DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

- Can we always see stars in the sky? Why or why not?
- How far away are the stars we see in the sky? (24,984,092,897,478.70 mi – nasa.gov) What is the closest star to us (Earth)? (the sun)
- Do you think a seagull would be able to fly high enough to reach a star?
- What do you think the author means when he writes: "But in his heart, the wish just wouldn't give up."?
- Can you think of any other things the boy might have tried to do to reach the star?

Suggested Optional Activity:

- (reader) Have students fold a sheet of paper into quarters. Then have them draw a tree on each of four sheets of paper. Place the sun up above each tree, changing locations on each drawing. Draw the shadow of each tree where it would appear, according to where the sun is in the sky. Draw an example for the students.

2. WRITING ACTIVITY

Write down two things you like to do with your friends and draw a picture of one of them.

3. EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Have students draw and color a rocket on plain paper (easy to fold). Make paper "rockets" (help/show students how to fold the paper into a paper airplane) and test how far the rockets can fly toward the stars.

COMMON CORE LINKS

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1, K.2, K.3, K.4, K.6, K.7, K.9, K.10