



MAMA BUILT A LITTLE NEST

AUTHOR: JENNIFER WARD

ILLUSTRATOR: STEVE JENKINS

See a video of the book read aloud here: [Mama Built a Little Nest](#)

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

OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE BOOK

There are so many different kinds of birds—and those birds build so many different kinds of nests to keep their babies cozy. With playful, bouncy rhyme, Jennifer Ward explores nests large and small, silky and cottony, muddy and twiggy—and all the birds that call them home! (simonandschuster.com)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jennifer Ward is a bona fide bird stalker, wildlife whisperer, and an author who writes books for children and adults. Her work has been the recipient of numerous awards including New York Public Library's Best Informational Book of the Year. Jennifer is also the recipient of the Judy Goddard/Libraries Limited Award for her body of work and contribution to Southwestern children's literature.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Steve Jenkins was born in Hickory, North Carolina. Steve went to art school in North Carolina, where he studied graphic design. Then he moved to New York City and worked with his wife, Robin Page, in their small graphic design firm. They now live in Boulder, Colorado, with their three children. His children ask him a lot of questions, which give him his ideas.

THE READ ALOUD

BEFORE READING

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

- Can you predict what the story is about by looking at the cover? What makes you think that?
- I wonder if this is a fiction or non-fiction book? Thumbs up if you think fiction—down if you think non-fiction, sideways if not sure. Why did you choose what you did?

DURING THE STORY

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

MAMA BUILT A LITTLE NEST

TOPICS & THEMES:

- Birds
- Habitats

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. 3). Why do hummingbirds use spider webs to build their nests?
- (p. 9) What do you think “craggy” means?
- (p. 12). I wonder why the wren chooses to build its nest in a cactus. What purpose does it serve?
- (p. 15). Why does the author use the word “hoot” in the poem about owls? What does it mean here?
- (p.16). I wonder why the owl makes his nest in a burrow. What is a burrow? What hint from the picture helps you to figure out what the word means?

AFTER READING

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

- What do you think after reading this book? Is it fiction or non-fiction? Why do you think that?
- Why do you think the author calls your bed your nest? Do you agree or disagree with her?

BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

- (p. 7-8) Stand up and try to waddle like a penguin holding the egg on his feet.

COOPERATIVE LEARNING

- (p. 26) Turn and talk to your neighbor about talons. What they are and how they are used? How do they help bald eagles to build their nests?

SMALL-GROUP IDEAS

1. DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

- Conduct a book walk through the pages as the students recall facts about the birds. Look at details of the nests.
- Why are the birds’ nests so different? (Reader: introduce the term “habitat” as the natural environment of an organism and the place where a person or thing is usually found.)
- What else affects the way nests are built? (the anatomy of the bird) In what ways are nests alike? How are they different?
- The author gives us more information in the back of the book. Let’s look for examples of the different kinds of nests. (burrow, cavity, mound, hanging).
- What resources do birds use for building besides their “hands”?
- Which bird nest did you find most interesting? Describe it. Why do you find it interesting?
- Can a book be non-fiction with drawings instead of photographs? What makes a book non-fiction?

Suggested Optional Activity:

- Download and print pictures of birds and nests. Have children play a matching game to see if they can place them together.

2. WRITING ACTIVITY

- Is there a place you like to nest? (bedroom? favorite chair? outdoor spot?) Draw a picture of this place and write a few sentences about why you like nesting there.

3. EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- Provide students with scissors, glue and paper. Have them create a bird collage. (Show an example.)

COMMON CORE LINKS

CCSS,ELA.Literacy.RIT. 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.6, 1.7