



Title: Mama Built a Little Nest

Author: Jennifer Ward

Illustrator: Steve Jenkins

Vocabulary: craggy, hoot, talons

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

Volunteer readers should review the Author's Note at the end of the story for relevant background information beforehand.

I. INTRODUCTION (PREP QUESTIONS)

- Can you predict what the story is about from looking at the cover illustration? Why do you think so?
- Do you think the story is fiction or nonfiction? What makes you say that?

II. INTEGRATIVE STRATEGIES

DURING READING

- P.7 What do you think these birds are using the nests for?
- P.10 What do you think craggy means? Are there clues in the illustration to help you figure it out?
- P. 16 What does hoot mean in this sentence? Why did the author choose that word for this particular page?
- P. 26 What are talons? Why are they important for nest building?
- End of book: Do you think the book is fiction or nonfiction? How do you know?

III. POST READING

- Discuss why different materials are used by different birds in different habitats.
- In what ways are the nests alike? In what ways are they different?
- Read the author's note at the end of the book. Look for examples of the different kinds of nests throughout the book. Burrow, cavity, mound, and hanging. Why are there so many different kinds of nests? Why do birds use so many different materials?
- How do birds make their nest without hands? What other resources do they have for building?
- How is your bed like a nest? What does nest mean here? Are there other places you like to nest besides your bed?
- Which bird nest did you find most interesting? Can you describe it?