

Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource

Book Notes



Hidden in the Midden

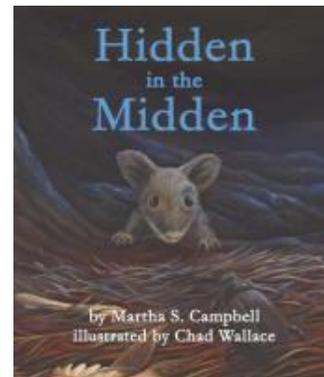
Author Martha S. Campbell

Illustrator Chad Wallace

12 pages ■ 312 words

Fountas and Pinnell Level N

Reading Recovery Level 20



Hidden in the Midden

SYNOPSIS

Paleoecologists discover clues about ancient times in the Southwest by examining what is hidden in pack rats' middens.

WHAT THE BOOK OFFERS

- Wonderment and curiosity
- Detailed illustrations
- Factual information
- Unfamiliar subject matter

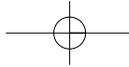
POSSIBLE SKILLS EMPHASIS

- Making inferences
- Prediction
- Challenging vocabulary
- Storytelling skills

INTRODUCING THE BOOK

Read pages 2 – 5 aloud to students. Then ask, “What’s a midden?” What do you think the author means by the title, Hidden in the Midden? Who hides things in a midden?

Let’s look at a map of the United States and see which states make up the Southwest.



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Hidden in the Midden (continued)

FOCUS OF INSTRUCTION

- Start on page 6 and read until you learn about what was found in a midden that was seventy-five *MILLION* years old.
Who can tell us what was discovered in a midden that was seventy-five *MILLION* years old? What does this tell us about the southwest region of the United States?
Let's make a list of things that can be found in middens using the book to add things if we can't remember.
Why do you think middens are also called, 'pack rat junk piles'?
Let's read page 11 together. What did you learn?
Who would like to tell us what the True Story was about on page 12, in your own words?
Let's reread page 12 together. Who else would like to tell this story in your own words??

FOLLOWING THE READING

- Students can look up information about middens in other places around the world. What discoveries have been made from examining things in middens? Write a paragraph about middens.
- Have students pretend they are a pack rat in the Southwest! They need to draw their midden with lots of treasures inside it. Be sure to remind them to put in things that will offer clues about ancient times. Encourage students to label each thing in their midden.

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Hidden in the Midden (continued)

Additional Comprehension Prompts For Oral or Written Use Before, During, and After Reading	
FINISH THIS THOUGHT	<i>A nocturnal animal likes to . . . If I camped in the desert overnight, I would . . .</i>
USE YOUR MEMORY	<i>What does the desert pack rat do at night in the desert? Retell the true story you read about on the last page of this book. Then reread it and see if you forgot to mention anything. Is it a true story?</i>
WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?	<i>Why do you think old middens are very interesting to paleoecologists? Reread pages 8 and 9 to see if you were right. What do you think would happen to desert pack rats if people kept destroying their middens? Why do you think that? Why is this book entitled, Hidden in the Midden?</i>
BE CREATIVE	<i>Pretend you are a desert pack rat in a campground that is located in the southwestern part of the United States. You want to make the biggest midden anyone has ever seen in the history of the world! Draw a picture of your giant midden and label everything in it. What will you take from the campers for your giant midden? Where will you hide those things? What will you use to pack everything together in your midden?</i>
VOCABULARY AGENT	<i>Find the Glossary in this book. Read the words that are written in bold black letters. Read the definitions of these words. Write down each word and next to it put the number of syllables that you find in that word. If you don't know how to pronounce a word so you can determine the number of syllables, look up the pronunciation of it in the dictionary.</i>

Book Note by Dr. Connie Hebert

Additional Comprehension Prompts by Dr. Connie Hebert

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