

## Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource

# Book Notes

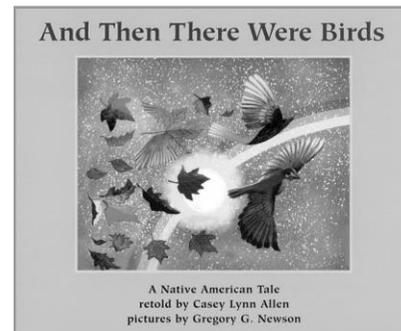


### And Then There Were Birds

Author Casey Lynn Allen

Illustrator Gregory G. Newson

12 pages ■ 156 words



AndThenThereWereBirds

#### SYNOPSIS

An American Indian tale about the creation of birds.

#### WHAT THE BOOK OFFERS

- Retelling of a traditional folk tale
- Third person
- Past tense
- Strong links with *Raven's Gift*
- Proper nouns
- Book language
- Metaphors: crown of leaves, cold breath of air
- Anthropomorphic characterizations: leaves, trees, wind
- Mainly action

#### POSSIBLE SKILLS EMPHASIS

- Proper nouns
- Using what is known about retellings and folk tales to predict structure and language
- Identifying characters and how they are presented
- Summarizing story line

#### INTRODUCING THE BOOK

*What does the title suggest about the content?*

*Now look below the illustration at the credit lines. What do they tell you about the way the content will be presented?*

*And when we look at the illustrations and think about the title and the fact that it is a folk tale, what do you think the connection might be between the birds and the leaves?*

- It is important that the discussion should be left at the prediction stage to not give away the storyline.

**FOCUS OF INSTRUCTION**

Page 2: *How do the text and the illustration on this page confirm that this will probably follow the pattern of a traditional folk tale?*

*Why does “Great Spirit” have capital letters, and will this be the case throughout the book?*

Page 4: *Look at how the author describes the tree in summer. Does the tree really wear a “crown of leaves”? Why did the author describe it in that way? (Perhaps introduce the term “metaphor.”) As we continue reading, you will find some other examples where the author describes things in this way.*

After page 5: *What do you expect to read about on the next page? Think back to the cover illustration.*

*How does that fit with what you know about folk tales?*

After page 11: *What do you expect to read on the final page?*

**FOLLOWING THE READING**

*What other folk tales have we read recently that have similarities with this one?*

■ *Raven’s Gift, The Bear’s Tale, The Cat with No Tail, and Goha*

*and His Donkey* are folk tales/legends/myths at various levels in the **Book for Young Learners** series.

■ **Make a web or chart showing similarities between this book and one of the others. For example:**

Theme: Creation—birds (*And Then There Were Birds*) light (*Raven’s Gift*)

Characters

Problem

Solution

*Let’s go back and find examples where the author has included interesting descriptions. How did those descriptions help you think like the author? Choose something you can see in the classroom or outside and think of an interesting description. Perhaps you might do as this author did and describe it as if it were something else. Remember how she said the leaves on the tree made a crown and sang sweet songs?*