

## Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource

# Book Notes



### Gecko's Story / La historia de Geco

Author Kathleen Hardcastle Moeller

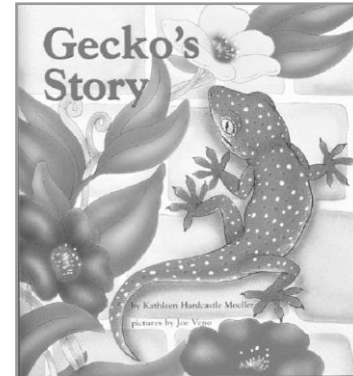
Illustrator Joe Veno

12 pages ■ 61 Eng. words ■ 70 Spn. words

Fountas and Pinnell Level F

Intervention Level 12

Descubriendo la Lectura Level 5



Gecko's Story

#### SYNOPSIS

An owl gets a surprise when he is left with a gecko's tail for his dinner.

#### WHAT THE BOOK OFFERS

- Fiction recount
- Third person
- Past tense
- Concise writing
- One incident
- One sentence per page, but a variety of sentence structures, including some book language
- Although the title implies that Gecko is telling the story, it is told in third person
- Extra information on page 12

#### POSSIBLE SKILLS EMPHASIS

- Attending to text detail
- Inferential reading, expanding the text to appreciate the inherent danger and trauma, to gain information about geckos, and to see how the gecko tricked the owl
- Using illustrations as a confirming rather than a predicting cue
- Coping with a range of sentence structures

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#### INTRODUCING THE BOOK

- If taken literally, the title could be misleading. The story is about Gecko, not told by Gecko.
- Use the cover illustration to establish what the group knows about geckos, avoiding detailed discussion about their ability to grow a new tail, because this would spoil the story line.

*Gecko looks so happy and safe among the flowers. I wonder what he is thinking or planning.*

*Does he look as safe on the title page though? What might that tell us about the story?*

*What might have caused him to change from a happy, carefree creature to a frightened one peeping out of a hole?*

#### FOCUS OF INSTRUCTION

- At first glance, the text may appear easy, but it requires slow, careful reading to understand how Gecko is tricking Owl and to capture the tension and drama of the incident. The concise writing and perspective may be unfamiliar to many students.
- Questions to help them expand the text and read beyond the words could include:

*What might Owl be thinking as he sees Gecko?*

*What did the author want us to think about between pages 4 and 5?*

*And what about poor Gecko? Look at his face on page 5. What is he probably saying?*

*Do you think this is the first time he has been caught by an owl or one of his other enemies?*

*What is Owl thinking as Gecko is twisting and turning on pages 6 and 7?*

#### FOLLOWING THE READING

*How else could the author have written page 8?*

*Choose one of the pages in the book and think of another way the author could have said that.*

*Owl tricked Gecko when he suddenly swooped down on him, but how did Gecko trick Owl?*

*Could this have been a true story? Why or why not?*

*When else might it be helpful that Gecko could grow a new tail? Write about that incident. Try to use interesting sentences like the ones you read in the story.*

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Additional Comprehension Prompts For Oral or Written Use Before, During, and After Reading	
<b>FINISH THIS THOUGHT</b>	<i>The thing I liked best about this book was . . . Gecko got caught by Owl because . . .</i>
<b>USE YOUR MEMORY</b>	<i>Why did Gecko's tail snap off? Where did Gecko hide to be safe from Owl? How do you know?</i>
<b>WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?</b>	<i>Why wasn't Gecko worried about losing his tail? What do you think Gecko learned? What do you think Owl learned? What did you learn from reading this story?</i>
<b>BE CREATIVE</b>	<i>Write 3 opinions you have about Gecko and 3 facts you learned about Gecko. Hint: Don't forget to read the information in the Nonfiction Note box on page 12 to help you.</i>
<b>VOCABULARY AGENT</b>	<i>What words do you get when you take off the 'ed' at the end of these words: *washed *grabbed *twisted *turned *snapped *wiggled *barked *chirped *croaked *screeched Use each of your new words in a sentence.</i>

Book Note by Margaret E. Mooney

Additional Comprehension Prompts by Dr. Connie Hebert

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