

Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource

Book Notes



Raven's Gift / El regalo del cuervo

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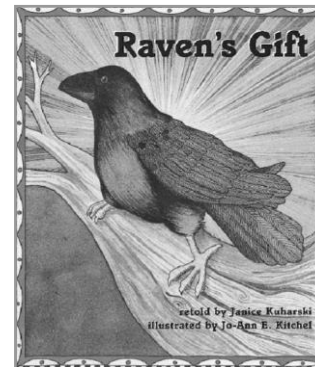
Illustrator Jo-Ann B. Kitchel

16 pages ■ 160 words ■ 173 words

Fountas and Pinnell Level L

Reading Recovery Level 17

Descubriendo la Lectura Level 18



Raven's Gift

SYNOPSIS

A legend of the American Indian people telling how light came to the earth.

WHAT THE BOOK OFFERS

- Retelling of a legend of the American Indian people
- Third person
- Past tense
- Storyline familiar to many American Indian people
- Concise writing
- Action with minimum description
- Legend traits: trickery, bravery, lesser outwitting and triumphing over perceived greater, magic
- Inferential reading, gaps between incidents

POSSIBLE SKILLS EMPHASIS

- Making inferences
- Using knowledge of legend to predict plot
- Identifying with character
- Making links with other legends
- Considering illustrative style in relation to the text
- Comparing and contrasting with *Pigeon Feathers*, another American Indian legend from the **Books for Young Learners Collection** suggested for use at this level

Raven's Gift / El regalo del cuervo (continued)

INTRODUCING THE BOOK

- Use title, "Retold by," and style of cover illustration to predict form and its origin.

Think about what you know about the way authors retell legends. Let's make a list of those features to help us think, read, and talk our way through this book.

How does the cover illustration help you think what Raven's gift might be?

How does the illustration on the title page confirm or amend your prediction?

FOCUS OF INSTRUCTION

- Refer to traits of legends listed during the book introduction to predict what might happen and how the author may present it. Recall other legends. Discuss problem/solution structure. Ask students to indicate when they know what the problem is. Predict how it might be solved.
- Encourage students to think about what the author has left the reader to bring to the reading. Jot ideas on self-stick notes to expand following the first reading.

What has the author left for you to write in your head?

How does the illustration add to the text? What gaps does this illustration fill? In what ways does this illustration match or extend the text?

FOLLOWING THE READING

- Discuss inferences required to appreciate the storyline.
- Discuss when such concise writing is required and how to decide what to leave the reader to add. Choose one of the illustrations and write a detailed caption.
- Refer to the list of features and compare it with that made for *Pigeon Feathers*.
- Retell (orally) the legend from the raven's perspective.



Raven's Gift / El regalo del cuervo (continued)

Additional Comprehension Prompts For Oral or Written Use Before, During, and After Reading	
FINISH THIS THOUGHT	<i>This legend is a story that people tell to explain how . . . If I were the raven, I would have . . .</i>
USE YOUR MEMORY	<i>What did the raven do to get the Chief's attention? What was the problem in this story? What was the solution?</i>
WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?	<i>How do you think the Chief felt when the boy turned back into a raven? How would you have felt? Why do you think the title of this book is Raven's Gift? Do you think it's the right title for this book? Why or why not?</i>
BE CREATIVE	<i>Make up a legend story that explains one of the things listed below. HOW did this happen? WHO are the characters in your legend story and WHAT is the setting? Draw pictures to go with your words.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ <i>How the Ladybug Got Spots</i> ❖ <i>Why Rabbits Like Carrots</i> ❖ <i>How Pumpkins Became Orange</i> ❖ <i>Why Stars Twinkle</i>
VOCABULARY AGENT	<i>Find a word in this story that rhymes with:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>*fox</i> <i>*mole</i> <i>*bright</i> <i>*try</i> <i>*took</i> <i>*bear</i> <i>*hay</i> <i>*grew</i> <i>*sting</i> <i>*me</i> <i>*pop</i> <i>*fears</i>