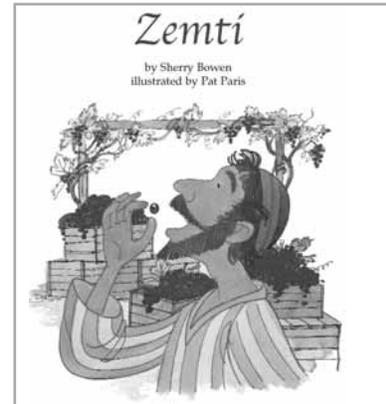


Zemti

Author Sherry Bowen

Illustrator Pat Paris

16 pages ■ 590 words



Zemti

Em	Early				Fluent			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
					S	G	I	

S = Shared G = Guided I = Independent

2nd grade

SYNOPSIS

A humorous story written in traditional folktale form describing how the first raisins came to be

WHAT THE BOOK OFFERS

- Fiction written in folktale form, third person, past tense
- Clear problem/solution structure
- Several incidents
- Repetition to emphasize a point
- Dialogue
- Detailed description of main character's actions and thoughts
- Simple, compound, and complex sentences
- Multiple adjectives and verbs separated by commas
- Humor
- Different culture, different time
- Geographical location
- Presentation of main character
- Nonfiction note and map on back cover

POSSIBLE SKILLS EMPHASIS

- Using knowledge of the folktale structure to anticipate plot
- Inferring Zemti's character traits by analyzing his actions and thoughts
- Inferring a moral at the end based upon character's actions

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		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
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Zemti (continued)

INTRODUCING
THE BOOK

We don't see the word "retold" on the cover or title page. So we know this is not a retold story. The author has written a new, original story using the form of a folktale.

Today we are going to use what we know about the folktale genre to anticipate Zemti's story.

What are some of the features of a folktale? (Characters, setting problem revealed early; quick ending contains resolution; repetition a basic element) What will we probably find out in the first few pages?

FOCUS OF
INSTRUCTION

Read to the bottom of page 9. Discuss the folktale features encountered so far. (character, setting, problem, repetition)

What are some adjectives we could use to describe the kind of person Zemti is? (happy, clumsy, hard-working, patient) Using what we know about Zemti's character and folktale genre, what do you anticipate will happen next in the story? (Be sure students justify their predictions.)

Read to the bottom of page 16. Have students confirm or modify their predictions. *Why are the last two lines of the story written in bold face type? Why does the author describe this story as a "far-fetched tale?"*

Discuss Zemti's actions and thoughts during this part of the story. *How did Zemti handle the problems he encountered? What does this show about his character? What kind of lesson, or moral, do you think the author may have wanted us to think about?*

FOLLOWING
THE READING

- Discuss other stories that have the problem/solution structure.
- Talk about how a text like this might be planned using a simple problem/solution story map. Plan a problem/solution story together.
- Have students research the facts about who first began to produce raisins. Have one of them write a short report that will be kept with the story.
- Reread the last paragraph on page 2. Note how the author gives the reader lots of details explaining why Zemti was a happy man.
- Have students find one sentence in their own writing that could be improved by adding details in this way.
- Re-examine how the author uses repetition on pages 2, 3, and 4 to create interest and rhythm. Help students identify a place in their own writing where repetition would be effective.