

Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource

Book Notes



Star Pictures

Author Juliann Darling

Illustrator Pamela Ross

12 pages ■ 96 words

Fountas and Pinnell Level K

Intervention Level 22



Star Pictures

SYNOPSIS

The seasonal skies provide different constellations.

WHAT THE BOOK OFFERS

- Nonfiction expository
- Third person
- Present tense
- Introductory phrases denoting “when”
- Concept may be unfamiliar
- Seasons provide framework and sequence
- Extra information on inside back cover includes explanations of illustration content
- Description rather than action
- Figurative writing

POSSIBLE SKILLS EMPHASIS

- Main challenge will be in understanding concept and accepting authenticity
- Understanding figurative writing—imagery
- Understanding how content and writing style influence reading pace and style

INTRODUCING THE BOOK

- Some students may not have noticed, been able to see, or have been shown the constellations and may question the authenticity of the detailed content and illustrations.
- If this appears to be a problem, the introductory discussion could take place one day, with students being encouraged to look carefully at the night sky before the reading continues the following day. Or, the first part of the extra information on the inside back cover could be discussed.
- If students are familiar with the stars and their patterns, the introductory discussion could include what they have seen and when, introducing the seasonal focus in the book.

Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource**Book Notes****Star Pictures (continued)****FOCUS OF INSTRUCTION**

- Discussion of the first double opening could include the style of the illustrations, comparing it with “connect the dots” activities, with which the students are probably familiar. The comparison could include how the unlinked dots do not give a clear picture—sometimes a confusing or a puzzling one—and how this happens when looking at the constellations.
- Do not hurry the reading. Give students time to think about and discuss the author’s choice of words and the images they create.
- If the reading does not pose too many challenges, the extra information on the inside back cover about each illustration could be read as each page is read. Otherwise, this could be left until the first reading has been completed.

FOLLOWING THE READING

- The students could keep a “night sky diary” for a few nights, recording their observations for comparison with other group members’ notes. This may engender discussion about why the stars are easier to see in some places or on some nights than on others.
- Students could draw other “dotted outline images” and write detailed descriptions. These could follow the seasonal framework.
- Discuss the author’s careful observation as a source for ideas for writing and how authors often focus on what is around us all the time rather than always creating ideas.

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Star Pictures (continued)

Additional Comprehension Prompts For Oral or Written Use Before, During, and After Reading	
FINISH THIS THOUGHT	<i>Lots of people like to stargaze because . . . By reading this book, I learned . . . and . . .</i>
USE YOUR MEMORY	<i>What's the title of this book? What season does Draco the dragon appear in the sky? What constellation appears on cool autumn nights?</i>
WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?	<i>Why do you think the author called constellations "star pictures" in this book? Which constellation is your favorite in this book? Why?</i>
BE CREATIVE	<i>Read all the great information about constellations on the inside back cover. Learn what the names of each of the star pictures in this book. On what pages can find them? Then draw a big constellation that you think would be awesome in the sky. Be sure to give it a name and write something about it under your star picture. Happy stargazing!</i>
VOCABULARY AGENT	<i>Write down as many words as you can that describe the 4 seasons:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>WINTER</i> ➤ <i>SPRING</i> ➤ <i>SUMMER</i> ➤ <i>AUTUMN</i>

Book Note by Margaret E. Mooney

Additional Comprehension Prompts by Dr. Connie Hebert

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