

The Christmas Owl mentor text unit

Mentor Sentence Lesson
Interactive Activity
Reading Activities
Writing Prompt
Vocabulary



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Digital Learning Links

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Click each of the links below and a screen will open to prompt you to make a copy. The files will be in your own Google Drive account.

(You may want to create a folder for all of these!)

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The Christmas Owl

By Ellen Kalish & Gideon Sterer



1st Grade English Language Focus Standard: L.2 (dialogue)
PREVIEW

Reading Lesson

R.1, R.3: Students infer how Little Owl feels when he is stuck in the tree, and when he wakes up in a strange new place.

R.2: Have students summarize the story and tell the theme of the book.

R.4: Students use context clues to determine the meaning of higher-level words (for example: jostled) from the book.

R.6: Students explain how the story would have been different if told from someone's point of view rather than the owl's.

R.7, R.9: Students watch news stories about the owl being found (<https://safeshare.tv/x/ss6377bc7e6d1c3>) and being released (<https://safeshare.tv/x/ss6377bd02a2c37#edit>), then analyze what was shared in the book and what they learned that was new.

Writing Lesson Ideas:

W.3: Students imagine what the owl told his friends about Christmas at the end of the book.

W.7: Students research the northern snowy owl to learn more about it.

PREVIEW

“Say goodbye to our tree!”

Someone called as the big

truck rumbled away

~ The Christmas Owl

Monday - possibilities of things to notice

*dialogue – comma, quotation marks

goodbye, someone – compound words

past tense

imperative in the quotation marks with exclamation point

comma splice, dialogue as a direct object called

vivid verbs called and rumbled

Tuesday - parts of the sentence

Say, called, rumbled – verbs

goodbye, tree, truck – nouns

to – preposition

our – possessive pronoun

someone – pronoun

as – subordinating conjunction

the – article

big – adjective

away – adverb

I labeled each sentence's subjects and predicates, but they are independent from one another since the dialogue really serves as a direct object.

“(You say goodbye to our beloved tree!” someone called as the huge 18-wheeler rumbled away.)”

complete subjects

simple subjects

complete predicates

simple predicates

Wednesday - possibility of revised sentence

“Say goodbye to our beloved tree!” someone called as the huge 18-wheeler rumbled away.

(add adjective and adverb to subject and predicate)

Thursday - possibility of insertion sentence

“Say hello to our people. More excitement! A little blue ball scampered over to me.”

Name: Answer Key

Date: _____

Editing Assessment



Say goodbye to our tree! Someone called
as the big truck rumbled away.

1. Circle 4 "s" keys in the sentence. Rewrite the sentence correctly:

"Say goodbye to our tree," someone called. The big
truck rumbled away.

Add quotation marks to the following sentences:

2. "It's beautiful," ^{remarked} said one of them.

3. "After all you've been through," she ^{sighed} said, "it's a
miracle you're alive."

4. "Almost!" ^{declared} said her new friend.

5. "You're free," she said. "Welcome home."

6. "You're back!" her friends cried, gathering 'round.

7. "I may have learned something about it," ^{replied} said Little
Owl as they all nuzzled close.

8. Rewrite all the "said" tags in the dialogue above with
better, more vivid verb!

suggestions provided;
answers will vary

QUOTATION MARKS

Quotation marks go around what someone is saying, or dialogue. There is also usually a tag- telling who said the dialogue. If the tag comes first, it is followed by a comma. *Little Owl asked, "Is this Christmas?"* If the dialogue comes first, place a comma before the end quotation marks, then follow with the tag. *"Almost," she said.* If the dialogue comes first, but it is a question or exclamation, no comma is needed before the tag. *"You're back!" her friends cried.* Sometimes tags are used in the middle of dialogue. *She knows, said Squawel, "but it happens every year."* Cut out the speech bubbles below and glue down by the pointed end in your notebook that makes a lip. Use each one to write the dialogue with quotation marks and tag.

What is going on here?

It'll be a perfect Christmas tree.

There's an owl in here!

Hello, little one. I'm Ellen.

Why are you here?

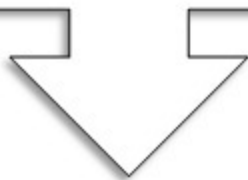
Name: _____ Date: _____

The Christmas Owl

Summarize the story.

Beginning:

PREVIEW



Middle:

PREVIEW



End:

PREVIEW

Name: Possible Answers Date: _____

The Christmas Owl



Give evidence to support the theme of the book.

Theme:
Kindness is caring.

PREVIEW

Some people used Little Owl to return home.

PREVIEW

Ellen fed Little Owl and helped her become a flying owl.

PREVIEW

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Christmas Owl

Research the Northern Saw-whet Owl and record your findings below.

PREVIEW

behaviors:

diet:

PREVIEW

other interesting facts:

PREVIEW



Name: _____ Date: _____

The Christmas Owl



What do you think Little Owl told her friends about Christmas?

PREVIEW

PREVIEW

PREVIEW

nipped



© jivey

jostled



© jivey

scowled



© jivey

peered



© jivey

did



© jivey

nized



© jivey

Name: **ANSWER KEY**

Date: _____

WHAT DO YOU THINK?



Use the text and picture clues to help you infer the meaning of these words.

WORD	PART OF SPEECH	BOOK CLUES	YOUR DEFINITION
pinned	verb	Little Owl was trapped with rope wrapping the tree	struck or held fast

jostled	verb	The tree was being lifted from the truck	bumped
----------------	------	--	--------

scowled	verb	Little Owl was looking grumpy and angry	frowned
----------------	------	---	---------

peered	verb	Little Owl saw a new face	looked
---------------	------	---------------------------	--------

gulped	verb	Little Owl had not eaten or drank in days	guzzled or swallowed hard
---------------	------	---	---------------------------

nuzzled	verb	All the animals were happy to be together	nuzzled
----------------	------	---	---------

Name: _____ Date: _____

VIVID VERBS

Vivid verbs are more exciting versions of boring verbs. Match the synonyms.



PREVIEW

p n coddled lpe scooped
 gazed stled tuck ed
 nuzzled peered bumped pouted

1. My elbow hit the box and knocked all the ornaments inside.

2. I quickly swallowed all of my hot chocolate.

PREVIEW

3. My sister glided on the sofa and tiddled me.

4. The baby bunny pushed against its mother for warmth.

5. The grumpy man frowned about all the traffic.

PREVIEW

6. We looked through the telescope at stars.

PREVIEW

Name: **ANSWER KEY**

Date: _____

WHAT DID THEY SAY?



Imagine these people are speaking using the vocabulary words. What could they say?



could say he is **peering** through the **microscope**

could say she loves to **nuzzle** her babies



could say she is **gulping** down her drink



could say / he **doesn't know** why his friend is **cowling**



could say / he **doesn't know** why his friend is **cowling**

Name: _____ Date: _____

SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW



1. What time _____ you _____ go?

PREVIEW

2. Which child _____ the _____?

3. Which verb has the same meaning as jostled?

PREVIEW

4. Alys peered into her closet. Which word could best replace peered?

a. blinked

b. stared

c. stomped

5. Dad scowled at the mess in the living room.

How does Dad feel?

6. Which of the _____ _____ you _____ like _____?

PREVIEW

b. They threw the _____ the quarter back and _____ him _____ the ground.



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