

THE SECRET NEST

By – Susan Burroughs
 Illustrated by – Sally Bratt
 Genre - Narrative
 Set 14 - 260 Words

Building Anticipation – Setting the Context

If possible, bring in a bird's nest for the students to see or obtain pictures of birds' nests. Discuss the different ways that birds build nests and the different sizes of birds' nests. Talk about the best time of year to look for birds' nests. Establish the context if the students aren't fully familiar with birds' nests and why birds build them.



Introduction

Hold up the book and introduce the story called *The Secret Nest*. Ask the children to predict: *What kind of nest do you think this might be and why do you think it might be secret?*

There should be no need for a picture walk, as the concepts have been established during discussion. You may want to ensure that they know what a hanging basket is and what a porch is.

Discussion – Book Talk

As you ask students each of these and other questions, have them tell what kind of question it is and how they figure out the answer. Invite them to think of their own questions and to talk about what kind of question each one is.

A right there question:

How many eggs were in the nest?

A think and search question:

Why did the children shoo the cat away?

On your own questions:

Why do you think Sarah wants the birds to come back?

Would you like to have a birds' nest in your yard? Why or why not?

Responding Creatively – Independent Practice

Read the first page aloud to the students, modeling fluent reading and demonstrating how to read in phrases rather than word by word. Then ask students to take turns reading with a buddy, thinking about reading with expression and fluency.

Children can:

- use the comic strip master to retell the story in the word and pictures. Put the children's words in speech bubbles.
- take a walk outside and try to find birds' nests. Talk about where they are located and revisit the best time of year to see birds living in them.

Read Aloud Connections

Bird Nests by Helen Frost, Gail Saunders-Smith, Pebble Books, 2000.

Tanglebird by Bernard Lodge, Houghton-Mifflin, 1997.

The Singing Hat by T. Riddle, Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2001.

Where Does a Tiger-Heron Spend the Night? By Margaret Carney, Kids Can Press, 2002.

Learning about Language – Focused Teaching

High Frequency Words	watch, these, right, think, through, found	Find these words on the word wall.
Word Families and Letter Clusters	<i>est</i> family - nest, best, rest, etc. <i>tw</i> blend - twins, twenty, twice - Make the connection to the word two.	Make a construction paper nest. Write the <i>est</i> word family on egg shaped cards and paste them on the nest. Using movable letters make all the <i>tw</i> words you can find.
Structural Features of Words	Locate two syllable words - ladder, flower, basket, middle	Have students do a word hunt for two syllable words.
Text Features	Dialogue	Look at the quotation marks and the <i>said</i> marker. Find them in other stories.

Comic Strip

