

Beauty and the Beak



Author/Publisher/Website: Rose, D. L.; Veltkamp, J.
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Recommended Grades: K-5

Subjects/Courses: Science, Applied Design, Skills & Technology

ERAC Review

DESCRIPTION

This engaging resource follows the story of Beauty, a bald eagle, from the birth of an eagle, the description of her young life, to when she suffers a gunshot wound that shatters her beak, leaving her unable to eat, fly, or drink water. Beauty is rescued and helped by a raptor biologist and a bioengineer who create a prosthetic beak for her. This resource has bold captivating illustrations, photographs, and factual information on eagles throughout the story as well as in a separate reference section. Suitable as a read-aloud for grades K-5 and to launch discussion of the life-cycle of eagles, creating designs and using technology in unique ways, and the impact of human behaviour on wildlife.

CURRICULUM FIT

Does the resource support BC curriculum? Extensively

This product supports the Core Competencies of the BC curriculum:

- Creative Thinking
- Social Responsibility

Comments:

Beauty and the Beak strongly supports the Science and Applied Design, Skills, & Technology curricula. This resource could be used to explore Big Ideas in Science, such as living things have features and behaviours that help them survive in their environment, and living things have life cycles adapted to their environment. As well, it supports Big Ideas in ADST, such as how humans can use technologies which extend human capabilities, and the choice of technology and tools depends on the task.

GENERAL CONTENT

Content:

This resource supports the characteristics of Aboriginal worldviews and perspectives:

- Connectedness and Relationship
- Engagement with the Land, Nature, the Outdoors

Is the resource engaging?	Extensively
Is the content current for the intended curriculum and grade?	Extensively
Is the content accurate for the intended curriculum and grade?	Extensively
Is the content timely and important for student broad understandings?	Extensively

Audience:

Is the content appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level of students?	Extensively
Does the resource provide opportunities for creative and critical thinking?	Extensively
Is the level of detail appropriate?	Extensively
Is the content of particular interest to male students?	Extensively
Is the content of particular interest to female students?	Extensively
Is the language use appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level of students?	Extensively
Are the visuals appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level of students?	Extensively

Comments:

This resource will engage students across the elementary grades as they are exposed to the life cycle of bald eagles, while focusing on one special eagle, Beauty. Students will be interested in how a variety of humans work together, using advanced technology, to problem-solve and ultimately save Beauty after she suffers a catastrophic gun-shot wound.

TECHNICAL DESIGN

Does the resource make effective use of the medium?	Extensively
Is the location of illustrations appropriate?	Extensively
Is the resource easy to use?	Extensively
Is the use of font, text size and presentation uniform?	Extensively
Are extraneous elements/illustrations kept to a minimum?	Extensively

Comments:

The pages in this resource use a vivid colour scheme of greens, oranges, and yellows as a background to offset crisp, white lettering. In the first part of the book, each page has a moderate amount of font that is double spaced and wraps around the pictures, giving a clean and uncluttered feel. Throughout the introduction, clear and vivid photographs capture bald eagles in their natural settings. As the story about Beauty unfolds, realistic photos document the process of her recovery. The story ends but the book does not. The last third of the book devotes itself to factual information about eagles. There are fewer pictures, the font is smaller, and the language more complex.

PRINT NOVEL

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Does the text show insight into the complexity of the human condition?	Moderately
Does the text broaden students' experiences and understanding?	Extensively
To what degree is this text stylistically rich?	Moderately

Plot description:

Beauty and the Beak tells the story of “How science, technology, and a 3D-printed beak rescued a bald eagle.” The story begins by providing background information of a typical eagle’s survival in the wild. Beauty, the bird in the story, suffers a gunshot wound that results in a shattered beak. Unable to eat, fly, or even drink water, Beauty becomes weaker until her eventual rescue. With human intervention, her condition improves; without a viable beak she will not survive. Luckily, a raptor biologist, Janie, and a bioengineer, Nate, combined their talents to create a prosthetic beak for Beauty. Almost fully recovered, Beauty continues to need human assistance and lives in a raptor facility.

Related Comments:

Captivating photographs guide the reader through this non-fiction account of an eagle that suffers injurious harm. The story is told in sequential order, beginning with the birth of an eagle and continuing with descriptions of its young life until the fateful event that almost resulted in its death, and then the human intervention that saved its life. Figurative language adds interest: “the two birds would spin like a helicopter”. Factual information is interwoven throughout the story and included at the end of the book in the form of reference materials.

Descriptors:

Genre:

Science non-fiction

Literary Highlights:

Well-developed themes

Effective figurative language

Sequence of events

Type:

Literary non-fiction

Picture Book

Visual Highlights:

Effective use of visual elements

Compelling images

Clear sequence of images

Visuals convey mood

SUGGESTED CLASSROOM USAGE

Comments:

Beauty and the Beak would make an excellent read-aloud, leading to discussions around a number of topics, including creating designs and using technologies in unique ways, the life cycle of eagles, and the detrimental effects of human behaviour on wildlife. Included in the book are many QR codes, which students could access to learn more about eagles and other birds of prey.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Readability:

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

At intended grade level(s)

Comments:

- <https://www.nwf.org/-/media/Documents/PDFs/Eco-Schools/Beauty-and-the-Beak-Educational-Guide.ashx?la=en&hash=B64C17283E957ED232F3E1AA45C8A8C2F5A1D03C>;
- <https://www.rif.org/literacy-central/book/beauty-and-beak>;
- BirdsOfPreyNorthwest.org (includes education guide to Beauty and the Beak);
- <https://www.eie.org/engineering-everywhere/curriculum-units/prosthetics> (includes hands-on STEM activities);