

Folktale



HUMMINGBIRD'S WINGS

retold by Vita Jiménez
illustrated by Jason Parker



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PAIRED
READ

What Is a Hummingbird?

STRATEGIES & SKILLS

Comprehension

Strategy: Ask and Answer Questions

Skill: Sequence

Vocabulary

about, animal, carry, eight, give, our, special, splendid

Phonics

Long *a*: *a*, *ai*, *ay*

Content Standards

Science

Life Science

Word count: 435**

**The total word count is based on words in the running text and headings only. Numerals and words in captions, labels, diagrams, charts, and sidebars are not included.



Education

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A



Essential Question

How do animals' bodies help them?

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READ**

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CHAPTER 1



A Special Bird

Long ago, there was a Great Spirit. He looked after every animal in the kingdom. One day, he created a tiny bird. The bird was plain looking, but Great Spirit gave her wings that were very special.



The bird could flap her wings faster than any other bird. She could fly backwards or stay in one spot. When she did this, her wings made the most splendid humming sound. That is why Great Spirit named her Hummingbird.



As she got older, Hummingbird looked at the birds around her. Some had red feathers and some had blue feathers. Some even had yellow feathers. At first, this made Hummingbird sad.

“Why do I have such plain feathers?” she said.

The other birds said, “You may be plain, but you make music when you fly!”

This made Hummingbird feel good.



One day, Hummingbird met another bird. They decided to get married. But there was a problem. Hummingbird didn't have money to buy a wedding dress. She was so sad that she stopped flying. This made the other birds sad too. They missed her humming sound.



“Let’s help our friend,” said Spider.

“What can we do?” asked the bird with the red feathers.

“Let’s all think hard,” said Spider.

“Together we can come up with a plan.”

All the animals nodded. They wanted Hummingbird to be happy. They wanted her to fly and hum again.



CHAPTER 2



Helping Hummingbird

The bird with the red feathers had a good idea. “Hummingbird can use my feathers for a necklace,” he said. He plucked off eight feathers and tied them together.



All the birds plucked off feathers. Blue bird helped carry them to the tailor. The tailor could make a very special gown with the feathers.





Spider said, "I can spin silk for a delicate veil." Then she helped the tailor with the gown.

Finally, everything was ready! Hummingbird's friends rushed to give her their gifts.

When it was time for the wedding,
all the animals gathered around.
Honeybee brought honey and nectar.
The trees and bushes brought their
flowers and fruits. The butterflies
fluttered around gaily.





Hummingbird put on her wedding gown, veil, and necklace. She was so happy that she forgot about being sad. She flew around, making the most wonderful humming sound. The Great Spirit's heart was filled with joy.

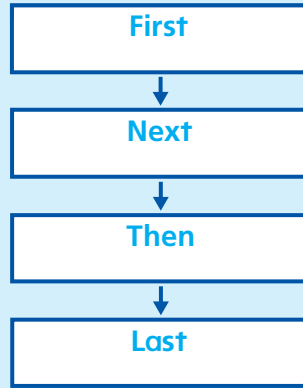
"Hummingbird, I hope you now see how special you are," he said. "Only you can make music with your wings."



Respond to Reading

Retell

Use the chart to retell *Hummingbird's Wings*.



Text Evidence

1. What do the animals do first to help Hummingbird? **Sequence**
2. What happens after Hummingbird's friends give her the gifts? **Sequence**
3. What kind of story is this? How do you know? **Genre**

Compare Texts

Read to find out more about hummingbirds.

What Is a Hummingbird?



Hummingbird wings beat very, very fast. Some hummingbirds beat their wings 60 to 80 times a second! This quick movement makes a humming sound. This is why the bird is called a hummingbird.



Hummingbirds

What They Look Like	What They Eat	How They Fly
<p>Hummingbirds are very tiny.</p> <p>They perch and scoot sideways, but they can't walk or hop.</p> <p>They have strong bodies and long wings.</p> <p>Their bills are long, slender, and slightly curved.</p>	<p>Hummingbirds eat nectar.</p> <p>They do not eat seeds like other birds.</p>	<p>Hummingbirds can fly forward, straight up and down, and backwards.</p> <p>They can hover, or appear to stay in one place, while beating their wings quickly.</p>



Make Connections

Look at both selections. What did you learn about hummingbirds?

Text to Text

Focus on Genre

Folktale A folktale is a story based on traditions and customs. Folktales are told orally and often teach lessons.

What to Look for Hummingbird teaches us that we are special just the way we are. The animals talk and act like people. In real life, animals don't do these things.

Your Turn

Make up a story about why a different animal is special. What can it do? Draw a picture and write what makes it special.

Thinkmark

Characters

How would you describe Hummingbird? How would you describe the other characters in the story?

Sequence of Events

What happened **first**, **then**, **next**, and **finally** in *Hummingbird's Wings*?

Make Connections

What other folktales have you read about animals that help each other? What was the problem? How was it solved?