

Fantasy

# Polly the Circus Star



by Amy Helfer  
illustrated by Judy Stead

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PAIRED  
READ

Birds That Talk

# STRATEGIES & SKILLS

## Comprehension

Strategy: Visualize

Skill: Key Details: Sequence

## Content Standards

Science

Life Science

## High-Frequency Words

be, come, good, pull

## Phonics

/-blends

Word count: 380\*\*

\*\*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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## Essential Question

What makes a pet special?



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Mrs. Ramos is going out. Bev and Ben will take care of Polly.

"Polly had her lunch," says Mrs. Ramos. "She might want a nap."

"Be good, Polly! Goodbye," says Mrs. Ramos.

"Goodbye!" says Polly. "Squawk!"





"Are you sleepy?" asks Ben.

"Do you want to nap in your nice cage?"

"I don't want to nap," says Polly.

"I want to race! Ready, set, go!"

Polly takes off in a flash. Bev and Ben run after her, huffing and puffing.



Bev and Ben reach the end of the hall. The back door is open!

"Where are you, Polly?" calls Bev.

"Here I am!" calls Polly. "Come see what I can do!"

“Look at me!” squawks Polly.  
“I’m in the circus!”

“Come down before you get hurt!” calls Ben.

Polly jumps from the rope and zips away. Bev and Ben run after her.





“Look at me!” says Polly. “I’m a clown in the circus!”

“You’re going too fast!” says Bev.  
“Please stop!”

Polly stops the car with a screech.  
Then she races away. Ben and  
Bev run after her.







Now Polly is in the kitchen.

“Look at me!” she says.

“I can juggle six eggs! I’m the circus star!”

“Please put them down, Polly,” begs Ben. “This is *not* the circus!”



“Oops!” says Polly as she zips away.

Ben mops up the mess while Bev runs after Polly.



"Jump, Kitty," says Polly.  
"You're a circus lion. Jump  
through the hoop!"

Kitty doesn't want to be a lion,  
so Polly flies away.

Polly is worn out! Bev and Ben see Polly pull the cage door shut.

“It looks like Polly has run out of gas,” says Ben.





"Goodnight, Polly," says Bev.  
"Have a good nap."

"Have a good nap," squawks  
Polly.

Ben and Bev laugh. "Oh, we  
will!" they say.

# Respond to Reading

## Retell

Use your  
own words  
to retell

Detail	Detail	Detail
--------	--------	--------

*Polly the Circus Star.*

## Text Evidence

1. What does Polly do after she goes in the kitchen? **Key Details:**  
**Sequence**
2. What does Ben do after Polly zips away? **Key Details:** **Sequence**
3. Could this story happen in real life? Why or why not? **Genre**





# Birds That Talk

Juniors Bildarchiv/Alamy

CCSS

Genre Nonfiction

## Compare Texts

Read about pet birds that can be trained to speak.



Birds are smart pets. Some of them can learn to speak. Do you want to train your pet bird to speak? Start when your bird is young. Say the same words over and over. Speak clearly and slowly. Be patient. Teaching a bird to speak can take time.



**African  
gray parrot**



perch

## What a Pet Bird Needs

1. a clean, safe cage with a perch
2. fresh water and the right food
3. exercise time outside its cage
4. to have its nails clipped
5. toys
6. your time and attention



### Make Connections

How are real pet birds different from Polly in *Polly the Circus Star*?

Text to Text

# Focus on Science

**Purpose** To find out the kinds of things pets need

## What to Do

Step 1

Choose a pet you have or would like to have.

.....

Step 2

Make a chart like this one.

My pet is a _____.
My pet needs
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

.....

Step 3

Fill in the chart with three things the pet needs.

**Conclusion** Talk about why your pet needs the things you listed.

# Thinkmark

## Setting

Where does *Polly the Circus Star* take place?

What time of day does the story take place?

## Characters

Who is the main character in *Polly the Circus Star*?

Who are the other characters?

## Sequence of Events

What happened first in this story?

What happened after Polly pretends to be a juggler?

What happened last?