

Realistic
Fiction



Where Are They *Going?*

by Brian Hannigan
illustrated by Ana Ocha



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PAIRED
READ

A Whale's Journey

STRATEGIES & SKILLS

Comprehension

Strategy: Make, Confirm,
and Revise Predictions

Skill: Plot

Vocabulary

adapt, climate, eager,
freedom, fresh, sense,
shadows, silence

Phonics

short o; long o: o_e

Content Standards

Science

Life Science

Vocabulary Strategy

Prefixes

Word count: 738**

**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 survive?

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Chapter 1

A New Noise

The fall day was beautiful.
Grandpa and Emma stood outside.
“Mmm, smell that fresh country air,”
Grandpa said.

Emma did not say anything, and
she did not smile. In fact, Emma
looked unhappy.





“It is so quiet here,” Emma said.
“The silence is strange. In the city,
I hear cars honking and sirens. There
is noise all the time.”

Emma didn't say so, but she was a
little homesick. She missed the city
and her parents.



Suddenly, Emma heard a sound. "What is that noise?" she asked. "It sounds like honking, but not like cars."

Grandpa pointed to the sky. Emma looked up and saw a big V shape high in the sky. "What's that?" she asked.

"It's a flock of snow geese," Grandpa said.



Chapter 2

Flying South



“Where are they going?” Emma asked as the geese flew overhead.

“They are flying south for the winter,” Grandpa explained. “They live near the Arctic Circle most of the year. But the climate is too cold in winter and food is too hard to find. Those birds are going to warm marshes on the coast. They’ll stay there for the winter. They’ll return home when the weather is warmer.”

Emma watched until the birds were gone.

I wish I had that kind of freedom, she thought. Then I could fly back to my house right now.

She pulled her jacket tighter and tried not to think about home.





Another burst of honking filled the air. Emma looked up again. She saw a second V of geese flying overhead.

“Grandpa,” Emma said, “how do they know where they’re going? They must have a great sense of direction!”



"I'm not sure," Grandpa said. "Would you like to find out?"

"Yes," Emma said.

"Then let's go inside," Grandpa said.
"It's getting cold out here!"



Chapter 3

Lots of Birds



Emma followed Grandpa into the kitchen. Grandma smiled. "What are you two doing?" she asked.

"I want to find out about the snow geese we just saw," Emma said.



“That sounds like a good idea,”
Grandma said. “Let’s start with the
bird books in the living room. Then
we can look on the computer.”

Grandma pulled two bird books from
the shelf. Emma took one of the
books and sat down on the couch.

“Snow goose,” she said as she looked in the index. “Here, I found it!” Emma turned to the correct page in the book and began to read.

“This says snow geese migrate in huge flocks. Some flocks have 1,000 birds! Wow! It’s no wonder we can hear the honking.”



“This book says snow geese can fly about 40 miles an hour,” Grandma said. “That’s as fast as a car. What else did you find out?”

“The geese fly thousands of miles. They fly day and night sometimes. They must be really good flyers,” Emma said. She closed her book and went to the computer to look for more information.





She found out that the baby birds fly south with their parents.

She read that scientists think maybe baby geese learn how and where to migrate. "The babies learn how to get to the winter nesting grounds. Then they learn how to get back to their home in the Arctic," she explained to Grandma.

Chapter 4 Time Flies Too

The birds were interesting, so Emma kept reading. Then Grandma said, "Goodness, it's time to make dinner!"

"So soon?" Emma asked.

"Time flies just like the birds, doesn't it?" Grandma said. Emma laughed and went into the kitchen with Grandma.





Later that night, Emma lay in bed. The shadows on the wall looked like flying geese. She decided she would make a poster about the birds. She would share it with her parents later.

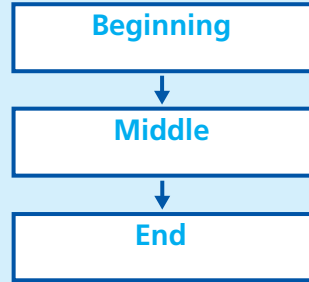
She was eager to get started in the morning. What a fun day, Emma thought sleepily. I wish I could stay here longer.

Then Emma fell asleep. She dreamed she was flying.

Respond to Reading

Summarize

Use the Plot chart to summarize *Where Are They Going?*



Text Evidence

1. Is *Where Are They Going?* fiction or nonfiction? How do you know? **Genre**
2. What do the characters in the story do? **Plot**
3. What does the prefix *un-* mean in the word *unhappy* on page 2? **Prefixes**
4. Write about events that help Emma change in the story. **Write About Reading**

Compare Texts

Read about another animal that migrates.

A Whale's Journey

Humpback whales are giant creatures. They can be fifty feet long! What does a huge humpback have in common with a snow goose? Both animals migrate.



Humpbacks are powerful swimmers.

Humpbacks swim very long distances every year. They adapt to changes in the water around them.

The whales spend the summer near Alaska. The water is cold and filled with food. In the winter, the water is too cold. The whales swim thousands of miles to warmer waters.

In winter, many humpback whales swim toward Hawaii.





This baby humpback will not go far from its mother.

Baby whales are born in the warm waters. They stay with their mothers for at least a year. They swim north together in the summer.



Make Connections

Why do humpback whales migrate?

Essential Question

How are humpback whales and snow geese alike? [Text to Text](#)

Focus on Genre

Realistic Fiction Realistic fiction is a made-up story that could happen in real life. The people and places in the story seem like real people and places.

What to Look For The characters in *Where Are They Going?* are like people you might know. The farm in the story seems real. The story events, or plot, could happen in real life.

Your Turn

Plan a realistic fiction story. Make a story map with characters, a setting, and a plot. Think of things that could happen in real life. Plan the beginning, middle, and end. Then write a draft of your story.

Fiction

Thinkmark

Setting

Where and when does *Where Are They Going?* take place?

Characters

Who is the main character in *Where Are They Going?* Who are the other characters?

Sequence of Events

What happens in this story at the beginning, middle, and end?

Make Connections

Did anything about the story remind you of your own life? Are you like Emma? Explain.