



## Bird Question Ball

Grades: 1-2

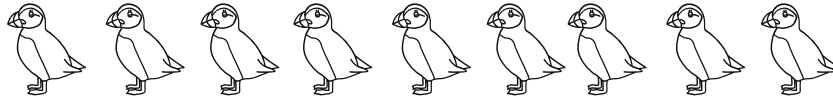
**Objective:** In this lesson, students will practice answering questions and retelling stories they have read about birds.

**Materials:** Books about birds and a Question Ball

**Sources:** Harper Collins and Crayons & Coffee Cups



## Read Aloud Booklist: Birds!



**Owl Moon/** written by Jane Yolen; illustrated by John Schoenherr

This gorgeous winner of the 1988 Caldecott Medal follows a child and her father as they look for an owl on a snowy, moonlit night. The search is quiet and suspenseful, and the ending perfectly captures the simple joy of seeing a grand bird.

**Make Way for Ducklings/** written and illustrated by Robert McCloskey  
Mallards take center stage in this intimate look at the life of one family, which happens to have webbed feet. Readers, along with all the characters in the book, can root for Mrs. Mallard and her eight little ones to reach safety in Boston's Public Garden. This one was published more than 75 years ago and it's still hugely popular, which shows that caring about the fate of cute little birds is a timeless concept.

**Little Owl's Night/** written and illustrated by Divya Srinivasan

Giving readers a sneak peek at what happens in the forest at night, this book follows one young owl as he explores, meets friends, and eventually goes to sleep as the sun is coming up.

**Red & Lulu/** written and illustrated by Matt Tavares

When their towering evergreen home is cut down, a pair of cardinals is separated. But one chases the other all the way to New York City, where their tree becomes a major holiday tourist attraction. The illustrations are sublime, and when the cardinals find each other again, it's just adorable.

**Little Owl Lost/** written and illustrated by Chris Haughton

Little Owl tumbles from his nest and an anxious search for his mother ensues. But the mother is always reassuringly present in the illustrations as she looks for Little Owl—and there's a good dose of humor as a helpful squirrel tries to facilitate a reunion.

**Nest/** written and illustrated by Jorey Hurley

There are only 15 words in this simple book, but they tell a sweet and complete story about a growing family of robins—and are likely to spark further conversation about the lives of birds.

**Owl Babies/** written by Martin Waddell; illustrated by Patrick Benson  
Three baby owls—Sarah, Percy, and Bill—awake to find their owl mother away from their tree. They worry and they wait and they think, and little Bill echoes the voices of small children everywhere when he cries, “I want my mommy!” And yes, of course, she returns.

**Stellaluna/** written and illustrated by Janell Cannon  
Although the main character in this stunningly illustrated story is a baby bat, she befriends a group of baby birds and together they learn about accepting and embracing differences.

**No Two Alike/** written and illustrated by Keith Baker  
The two red birds in this rhyming book are almost exactly alike—almost, almost...but not quite. As the birds explore a snowy landscape, readers can consider how many things (from feathers and snowflakes to roads and forests) appear similar on the surface, but have unique qualities to observe and honor. This is one of my go-to gifts when twins are born.

**Little Penguins/** written by Cynthia Rylant; illus. by Christian Robinson  
After a big snowstorm, a family of penguins bundle up, play and play, then come back into their igloo for cookies and bedtime. It’s not the most accurate depiction of bird life, true, but it’s a cozy celebration of the ultimate snow day.



Sources: <https://www.harpercollins.com/blogs/harperkids/childrens-books-about-birds>  
Retrieved 03.21.22

# Question Ball: Bird Books



Good readers need to be able to recall and make sense of, or comprehend, what they read. One of the best ways to increase comprehension in readers of any age is with the Questioning Strategy. In order to better understand the text kids learn how to create teacher-like questions about what they have read. Sounds simple, right? All it takes is practice. This is where the Question Ball comes in!

## **How to use a Question Ball to increase reading comprehension:**

1. Read a story together just as you normally would—make predictions, read with inflection, ask questions, discuss thoughts, etc.
2. Bring out the Question Ball and let the kids look at it. Talk about the question words written on it.
3. Play catch! Whoever catches the ball gets to ask the question using the question word that his/her left thumb lands on.
4. Answer the question and throw it back.

Don't worry if at first all of the questions the child asks are very low level or ones you may have already said—it takes a lot of practice to be able to create good teacher-like questions. New readers greatly benefit from having good reading models and in this case will be able to improve their questioning skills by watching you develop your teacher-like questions.

## **Make Your Question Ball!**

- Buy a cheap beach ball.
- Blow it up and set it on a bowl.
- Write a question word--who, when, what, where, why, how--in each section.
- Let dry and get ready to play!



Source: <https://www.coffeecupsandcrayons.com/practice-questioning-with-a-question-ball/>

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