

The Strange Egg

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The Strange Egg is about discovery and friendship. Each of us has something to learn, and something to share. How do we figure things out? One must read the words *and* examine the pictures in order to understand the story.

Pre-Reading Activities

Use only one of your senses to identify something.

- List your guesses.
- Add an additional sense, does that help? List more guesses.
- What do you think might help you to know what it is?

Read and discuss this folk tale from India:

Five blind men wanted to find out what an elephant was. They had one brought to them.

Surrounding the elephant, each blind man reached up to touch it.

The first blind man grabbed the elephant's trunk. He said, "Aha! So an elephant is like a snake."

The second blind man, holding one of the elephant's legs, said "Oh no, it is like a tree trunk."

The third grabbed the elephant's ear and said "How can you say that?"

An elephant is clearly like a fan."

The fourth, clutching the animal's tail, said, "No, no, no! The elephant is like a rope."

The fifth, climbing up the side of the elephant, said "You're all wrong!"

The elephant resembles a small hill."

Examine *The Strange Egg* book cover

- What is the title?
- Look at the picture. Is that an egg?
- What do you think?
- What do you think the bird is thinking?

Science

The little bird uses his five senses, his past experience, and a friend to figure out the things that puzzle him in this book.

Be a detective!

- What are you curious about?
- How will you learn more about these things?
- Ask a question, make up a hypothesis, research, experiment, analyze your information and see if you can answer the question

Plant seeds

- Water, wait, watch!
- Compare and contrast eggs and seeds

Language

There are very few words in this story, but they are interesting words!

- Use a thesaurus to find interesting words.
- Find words in the story that are past tense, and end with -ed.
- Find descriptive verbs
- Find alliteration

Write your own descriptive sentences about something you tasted, touched, smelled, heard, or saw.
What do you think 'hatching ideas' means?

Social/Emotional

Why do you think the little bird sits on the egg?

How do you feel about the little bird? Why?

How do you feel about the monkey when he peels the 'egg'?

How do you feel about the monkey when he shares the orange?

Find a place in the book that is: exciting, sad, scary, friendly.

Art

- Name the mood of particular illustrations in *The Strange Egg*.
- Examine how color, shape, point of view, scale and/or expression communicate the mood visually.
- Ask: 'What is happening in this picture?' and 'What did you see that made you say that?'
- Why do you think there are maps in the illustrations?
- Draw something you saw, smelled, tasted, touched or heard.

Drama

Act out the story--this would make a great little play!