



SNOW BIRDS



KIRSTEN HALL
illustrated by
JENNI DESMOND



TEACHER & PARENT
ACTIVITY PAGES



Pre-Reading Activity:

ADAPTATION



Snow Birds features birds that don't migrate to warm places for the winter season.

Instead, these brave and resilient birds adapt to survive the coldest months.



Brainstorm a list of things the birds might need to survive until Springtime.





Pre-Reading Vocabulary:

- RESILIENCE: The ability to face and adapt to challenges.
- ADAPTATION: A special skill that helps an animal to survive.
- HABITAT: A place that an animal lives. It provides the animal with food, water, and shelter.

In the author's note, Kirsten Hall writes:

"Aren't snow birds remarkable? Before writing this book, I'd never given much thought to birds that don't migrate to warm places during the winter season. But then, one day I began to wonder about these little warriors. What I learned is that even the smallest and most vulnerable of creatures can survive anything—even subfreezing temperatures!—if they work with clever minds, keen sense, and a clear understanding of resources and conservation."



Go to "Meet the Birds" in the back of the book. Assign one of the birds to your reader or small reader group. Each of these birds shows resilience by figuring out ways to adapt to winter.



- What did each bird do to survive and adapt to winter?
- Have readers think of a time they faced an obstacle or problem.
- How did they show resilience?
- What did they do to overcome the problem?

Extension Activity:

CREATIVE WRITING



1. *Snowflakes whirling,
snow-flocks twirling,
streaks of white
twirl through
the night . . .*

(Look at the poetic elements of several poems in the book.)

2. *Look! In the tree! A blue jay feeder.
Carved with care from fine red cedar.*

(Identify the rhyming words in each poem.)

3. *Teedle-eet eet! Teedle-eet eet!*

(Identify onomatopoeia on each page.)

Now write a poem for your assigned bird or a bird of your choosing. Include rhyme and onomatopoeia in your poem.



Take a Mindful Winter Snow Bird Walk

When we are mindful, we are focused and paying attention to something. We are quiet and slowing down, so we can notice everything around us. When we are mindful, we are taking our time.

Take a walk outside and walk mindfully. Take a deep breath. Quietly look at everything.



◆ Watch mindfully. Notice what you see. Do you see a bird in flight?



◆ Listen mindfully. Notice sounds. Notice the silence between sounds. Listen to the furthest sound you can hear. Do you hear the wind? Tree branches creaking?

◆ Touch mindfully. Notice what you can feel. Is the ground cold? How does the air feel on your skin?

◆ Smell mindfully. Notice what you can smell. Do you smell pine needles? Cold rain or snow?



Were you able to see or hear a snow bird?

ART

What cheer-cheer-cheers do the cardinals say?

Illustrator Jenni Desmond painted the bright red plumage of the Northern Cardinal contrasting against the white snow on a winter day.



Create your own artwork celebrating the strength of the Northern Cardinal, using your handprint.

You will need:

- ☀ light blue construction paper
- ☀ red, black, orange, brown, and white paint
- ☀ paintbrush and shallow bowl or cup of water



1. Cover the inside of your hand with red paint.
2. Stamp your hand on the light blue paper.
3. Wait for the red paint to dry.
4. Paint a brown branch, an eye, and a beak.
5. Add snow all over in white!

