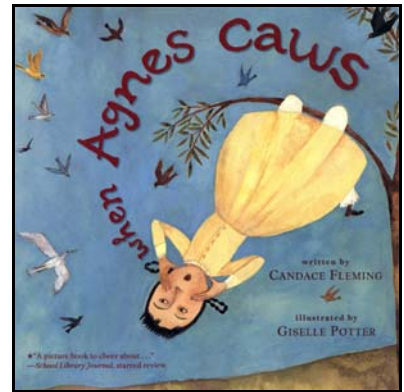


## Classroom Guide

### *When Agnes Caws*

written by Candace Fleming, illustrated by Giselle Potter  
published Atheneum Books for Young Readers  
(imprint of Simon and Schuster), 2002

*A note to the teacher:* This book can be used in a variety of ways and contains activities appropriate for elementary and preschool students. There are also multiple web links throughout this guide to additional lesson plans and organizations connected with birding and youth.



## Themes

- ◆ Birds, Birds, Birds
- ◆ Migration

## About the Book

Young Agnes Peregrine has a talent for making birdcalls. When the World Bird Society sends her on an expedition to find a very rare pink-headed duck, the evil Colonel Edward Pittsnap is quickly on her tail. He desperately wants a pink-headed duck for his collection and will stop at nothing to get it. Unfortunately for him, Agnes is smarter than he thinks. Bird facts are peppered throughout this lively picture book.

## About the Author

Candace Fleming is the author of numerous books for children, including *The Fabled Fourth Graders of Aesop Elementary School*, *Ben Franklin's Almanac*, an ALA Notable Book and an ALA Best Book for Young Adults, and *Muncha! Muncha! Muncha!* and *Gabriella's Song*, all ALA Notable Books.

## Things to think about before you read the book

- ◆ Do you have birds outside your window? Describe them. What do they look like? What do they sound like? Do you know what any of them are called?
- ◆ What kinds of animal sounds can you make? A donkey? An elephant? A monkey? Do you think different birds have different songs?
- ◆ Can you think of any sports that use birdcalls? (i.e., turkey, pheasant, or duck hunting). *Note to the teacher: if possible, bring in a birdcall so the students can hear what it sounds like.*
- ◆ Do birds stay in one place all year? What is it called when they move from place to place because of the weather or the season (migration)? Can you think of one common bird that migrates (ducks, swans, sparrows)?

6. Act out *Two Little Blackbirds*.

*Two little blackbirds sitting on a hill.*

*One named Jack, one named Jill.*

*Fly away, Jack, fly away, Jill.*

*Come back, Jack, come back, Jill.*

**Materials:**

Old magazines, scissors, Popsicle® sticks, glue, stiff paper

**Curriculum connections:**

Art, science, literature

***Bird Sounds as Communication***

What sound does a chicken make? Many of us assume that chickens all over the world sound the same, but that is not the case. Different languages have different animal sounds. Here are a few examples.

LANGUAGE	BIRD <i>(and the sound it makes)</i>	CHICKEN <i>(and the sound it makes)</i>	ROOSTER <i>(and the sound it makes)</i>
English	Bird <i>(Tweet)</i>	Chicken <i>(Bowk Bowk)</i>	Rooster <i>(Cock-a-doodle-do)</i>
Norwegian	en Fugl <i>(Kvitre)</i>	en Høne <i>(KlukkKlukk)</i>	et Hane <i>(Kykkeli-ky)</i>
German	ein Vogel <i>(Tschülp, Tschülp)</i>	ein Huhn <i>(Bawk, Bawk)</i>	ein Hahn <i>(Kikerikiiii)</i>
Hungarian	Madár <i>(ChipChip)</i>	Csirke <i>(Kotkotkot)</i>	Kakas <i>(Kukuku)</i>
Polish	Ptak <i>(PeePee)</i>	Kura <i>(KoKoKo)</i>	Kogut <i>(Kokorekoo)</i>
KeSwahili (Tanzania)	Ndenge <i>(CheweChewe)</i>	KuKu <i>(Kokokoko)</i>	Jogoo <i>(Korikiho000)</i>
Thai	Nok <i>(JebJeb)</i>	Kai <i>(Kok, Kok)</i>	Kai <i>(Kai)</i>
Somalian	Shimbir <i>(Crrrrr)</i>	Dooro <i>(CooCoo)</i>	Diiq <i>(CooCoo CookaDoo)</i>
Amharic (Ethiopia)	Wef <i>(ChickChick)</i>	Dero <b><i>(Kakkaka)</i></b>	Dero <i>(CooCoo)</i>
Arabic (Iraq)	Tayr <i>(BisBis)</i>	Dagag <i>(Oeiu)</i>	Deek <i>(Oeiu)</i>

What other languages are spoken in your school? In your neighborhood? See if you can add more languages and bird sounds to this list.