

Reading Roundup



Wordy Birdy

Written by Tammi Sauer

Illustrated by Dave Mottram



Reading Roundup
Partners



Introduction

Gather the students around you so that they are able to see the illustrations of the book. Most classrooms will have an area rug defining this space. Introduce yourself and tell the students that you are excited to share Wordy Birdy, written by Tammi Sauer and illustrated by Dave Mottram.

Before Reading

Sometimes authors use humor to teach us powerful, important lessons. Wordy Birdy is a hilarious tale of a bird who talks all the time, from the time she wakes up, until the time she goes to bed. Always talking, and never listening, causes Wordy Birdy problems. Let's read together to see what happens.

During Reading



- The structure of the book is primarily speech bubbles, so it's important to change your voice as much as possible as each character speaks.
- Begin reading the inside cover of the book jacket. Hold the book so that students are able to see the illustrations. Give plenty of time for students to "read" and think about the pictures. Continue to read through page 8.
- **Page 8** *Oh my goodness, Wordy Birdy never stops talking. I'd like to show you something authors do sometimes.* Point to the ellipses. *Sometimes, authors use three dots to tell us that the words go on and on. This is only the beginning of what Wordy Birdy had to say.* **T/T** – *Illustrators help tell the story with pictures. Why do you think the illustrator would paint a picture of Wordy Birdy flying upside down? Turn and talk to your partner.* (Wordy Birdy talks all the time, and she's also a little odd. She's all over the place. She probably gets right up in your face and talks too loudly.)
- **Before reading page 10** *As we read this page together, think about how Wordy Birdy's friends feel about her. Listen to the words and notice the expressions on their faces.*
- **After reading page 10** **P** – *How do you think the other animals feel about spending time with Wordy Birdy?* (Wordy Birdy's friends get tired of her talking all the time. They don't always like being around her because she never listens.) *What words or illustrations helped you draw that conclusion?* (Answers will vary but should be supported by text or illustration evidence.)
- **Page 10** *Wordy Birdy is so busy talking. Look closely at Wordy Birdy.* **T/T** – *What is happening to Wordy Birdy? What do you think is about to happen? Turn and talk to your partner.* (She is so busy talking about people falling off the earth that she's about to fall right off the tree branch.)
- Continue reading the rest of the story making sure students have time to "read" the illustrations and think about the lesson Wordy Birdy learns.

After Reading

- **P** – *When Wordy Birdy ignores the warnings from the other animals, what do you think they're saying to themselves?* (She never listens to a single word we say. She's so busy talking that she's going to get into big trouble. We don't even know how to help her anymore.)
- **T/T** – *When Wordy Birdy hears the bear roaring at her, her behavior suddenly changes. How does her behavior change? What caused her behavior to change? Turn and talk to your partner about her behavior and what made it change.* (She stands very still, drops the vegetables, and says only one word, "Oh." The bear scares her and she finally learns to listen.)
- **P** – *Does Wordy Birdy still like to talk?* (Yes, but she understands it's important to listen, too. Besides, it's good manners.)

Remember, everyone has important things to say. Everyone has a story to tell. What's important is that we are courteous and understand the importance of listening.

Note – If the class has read, The Rabbit Listened, you may want to make a connection here.

Vocabulary

Dashes – runs p. 14

Trespassing – going somewhere without permission p.15

Advice – words to help p. 16

Unbearable – really, really bad p. 23

Approximately – about, close to p. 29

**WORD
WAGON**