

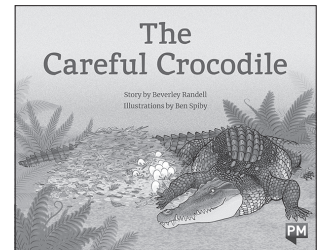
The Careful Crocodile

PM Level 16

Orange

Text Type Narrative

Running Words 276



Preparing for Guided Reading

Prior Knowledge

- Show students a book or a video about crocodiles in the wild. Discuss their features, behaviours and habitats.
- Crocodiles are as old as the dinosaurs and have been behaving in much the same way for 240 million years. Today, Nile crocodiles protect their eggs from monitor lizards in the same way as the crocodiles in this story protected their eggs.

Orientation to the Text

- This story has been set in the Jurassic period before the evolution of flowering plants. It is about a mother crocodile who has to protect her eggs.

Building the Balanced Reader

Vocabulary

Key Vocabulary

could, found, hurried, keep, lake, near, picking, Sometimes

Content Words

ferns, filled, grew, jaws, laid, mayflies, spiders, warm

Decoding

- Apply knowledge of syllables to break words into readable units.
- Observe students' ability to integrate meaning, language structures and visual information as they read. Provide support when necessary.
- Explicitly teach students to use a variety of comprehension strategies to predict or check meaning, including applying prior knowledge, thinking aloud, attending to details in illustrations, re-reading and reading on.

Focusing on the Book – Guided Reading

- Study the cover illustration and ask students to guess why the story is called *The Careful Crocodile*. Point out the nest. Note that today, Australian estuarine crocodiles build big nests from grass and reeds. Ancient crocodiles' nests would have been made from ferns and cycads.
- Discuss the following facts with students: This story is about crocodiles that lived at the time of the dinosaurs. The mother crocodile laid many

eggs in her sandy nest. The mother crocodile had to protect her eggs. Baby crocodiles hatched out of the eggs.

- On page 11, many students may think that the mother crocodile is eating her babies. Explain that she is transporting her babies.
- Explain to students that mother crocodiles are very caring towards their young, hence the title of the book. Young crocodiles begin to hunt for insects from the day they are born.
- Read to page 16. Discuss the mother crocodile staying near and looking after her young.
- Revise the blend 'cr' in **crocodile** and **cries**. Ask students to add words to this list.
- Ask students to locate words in the text that make plurals by adding 's', e.g. *crocodiles, jaws, eggs, ferns*. Identify words ending in 'y' that change the 'y' to 'i' and add 'es' for the plural form, e.g. *cries, babies, mayflies*.

Comprehension

- How many eggs did the old mother crocodile lay? (*Literal*)
- What would happen if the mother crocodile left her eggs alone in the nest? (*Inferential*)
- What insects did the baby crocodiles catch to eat? (*Inferential*)

Follow-up Activities

- With students, make a list of baby animals that hatch out of eggs. Locate pictures of the eggs and compare their sizes. Ask students to write sentences that compare the size of the eggs, e.g. *Emu eggs are bigger than chicken eggs*.
- Draw and paint a large crocodile and allow students to design a suitable background of ferns. Encourage students to write sentences or labels that can be attached to the picture.

The Careful Crocodile

Date _____

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Learning Intentions

- We are learning to apply knowledge of syllables to break unfamiliar words into readable units.
- We are learning to integrate meaning, language structures and visual information as we read.

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Success Criteria

- I can use my knowledge of syllables to assist me to decode unfamiliar words.
- I can use a variety of skills and strategies to understand what I read.

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Guided Reading Notes

Student's name	Reading focus	Observations/notes	For follow-up