

Learning to Fly

Teacher's Notes

Level 13

Literacy Connections

Word Count: 280 words (approximately, including title)

Reading Skills:

Use illustrations and existing knowledge to aid prediction

Read using a variety of appropriate reading strategies

Check using appropriate cues

Decoding Skills

High Frequency Words: mother, young, high, sight, fly, better, what, asked, could

Blends: "th" – at the start of a word:
their, they, the, that, than
– in the middle of a word:
Mother

Alphabet Knowledge: Short and Long Vowel sounds for the letter "a":
Short – that, than, balloon
Long – way, day, plane

Text Features: The pattern of the text and the repetitive nature of it

Content Connections

- Birds and their ability to fly
- Animal characteristics and adaptations
- Flight and flying machines
- Technology

Content Words:

fly, high, sky, kite, string, balloon, hot air, aeroplane, engine, helicopter, noise, bird, mother, young, nest

Suggested Activities

- Point out the words high, sky and fly. Discuss how they sound, the way they rhyme and their different spellings.
- Practise identifying long and short vowel sounds. Work together to establish a rule to help the students remember.
- Discuss the blend "th". The "notes" have identified words that feature the blend at the start and the middle of words. Focus on the blend occurring at the end of words.
- Change the setting of the story to the sea. Brainstorm ideas as to what the sea creatures would see and "think" about the technology we use in the ocean. Innovate on this story using the brainstormed ideas.
- Create a mural on the classroom wall featuring flight. Paint a sky background, then ask each student to contribute a 'flying machine' or animal to the mural.
- Spend time researching the technology and history of human flight
- Visit the airport
- Make kites or paper planes and hold flying competitions