



WHEN AGNES CAWS

A Lesson Plan Designed by E.A. Turner

BOOK TITLE: When Agnes Caws
AUTHOR: Candace Fleming
ILLUSTRATOR: Giselle Potter

SYNOPSIS: Agnes is a little girl with a gift for imitating the calls of birds. When Agnes and her mother travel the world to the Himalayan Mountains in search of the rare and elusive pink-headed duck, Agnes displays remarkable courage against the dastardly bird hunting villain, Colonel Pittsnap.

QUESTION: Even though the story is fictional, are the bird species real birds? (Yes, in fact, the book contains a spread in front and one in back with nonfiction information about the bird species.) Are the sounds made by Agnes in the story the actual calls of the real birds?

KEY WORDS: cacophony (compare to symphony, which is more than a chocolate bar); decades

WHISPER VALUES

WHISPER was created by Lynn Barnes for teaching values at KIPP Coastal Village.

Wisdom – Agnes used her bird calling gift to help the birds and to defeat the villain.

Honor – Agnes was honored by the World Bird Society when they chose her to go in search of the rare bird.

Internal Control – Agnes did not show internal control when she kicked a rock out of frustration. Luckily, things worked out because when she hurt her foot, she accidentally made the sound of the pink-headed duck.

Spirit – Agnes displays courage and strength of character as she outsmarts Colonel Pittsnap.

Persistence – Day after day, Agnes searched for the pink-headed duck.

Excellence – Agnes was excellent at calling for birds.

Relationships – Agnes and her mother had a wonderful relationship.

INQUIRY

If you take a trip to Galveston Island State Park, which birds will you see?

If you listen for bird sounds at the marsh and the beach, which sounds do you hear? Can you imitate the sounds of the birds, just like Agnes?

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