

To See an Owl



READ ALOUD

Themes: Birding, Curiosity, Nature, Patience, Perseverance

Book Brief: Janie has always dreamed of seeing an owl. With help from her teacher, Mr. Koji, she learns the patience and skills a real birder needs. This gentle story celebrates curiosity, perseverance, and the quiet magic of the natural world.

Author(s):

Matthew Cordell

Illustrator(s):

Matthew Cordell

BEFORE READING

The Cover: What do you predict this story will be about? Do you think it will be easy or hard for Janie to spot an owl? Why?

The Pictures: Flip briefly through the pictures. What do students notice about the little girl and the owl?

Prior Knowledge: Ask students, "Have you ever seen an owl in real life? If so, where and when?" As a class, begin a [RIF's See Think Wonder](#) chart about owls.

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [vocabulary guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, notice how Janie responds when she cannot find an owl, and what keeps her going."

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- Why does Mr. Koji say owls are so hard to see?
- What does Janie do to learn more about owls? Name two things.
- How do you think Janie feels each time she goes out and sees no owls?
- Janie keeps searching for months. What does that tell you about her?
- What clues tell you that Mr. Koji believes in Janie?



Think Aloud: "When I read that Janie looks "at sunrise, at dusk" and still sees no owls, I stop and think: Janie must feel tired and let down. But she doesn't quit. That tells me she is patient and determined and really wants this."

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: How did Janie respond when she couldn't find an owl? What kept her going?

Extending Our Thinking: Have students return to [RIF's See Think Wonder](#) chart. Have students note any questions or things they were wondering about the book and what they learned while reading the text.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more titles about owls.
 - [Owl Moon](#) (1987)
 - [Owl at Home](#) (1975)