COMPLETE STORY + QUIZ

Ruby and the Striped Feather Mystery

Ruby and the Striped Feather Mystery | Suggested ages 5-6



Ruby studies a striped feather without disturbing wildlife and identifies the bird by comparing safe clues.

Read, talk, and discover

The complete story is followed by questions and a separate answer guide. Read aloud together, pause to talk, and take your time.

Print on US Letter at actual size, or choose Fit for A4. Use single-sided printing for activity cards. Black-and-white printing is suitable.

Part 1

Ruby found a small brown feather with cream stripes beneath the park's old pine tree. She left it on the ground and took a photo.

Part 2

She wondered whether it came from a duck, hawk, or owl. The pond was nearby, but the feather was dry and softly edged.

Part 3

Ruby measured it beside a leaf in her picture. It was much smaller than a hawk feather and lacked the smooth shine of duck feathers.

Part 4

At the nature board, she compared drawings of local birds. The barred pattern looked like a small owl's feather, but she wanted another clue.

Part 5

She returned at dusk with Dad and listened quietly from the path. A tiny screech owl called from a hollow in the pine.

Part 6

A park guide confirmed that small owls often have softly edged, striped feathers. Ruby did not touch the nest or approach the hollow.

Part 7

Ruby added her photo, size note, location, and sound clue to a nature journal. Together, the clues supported one careful answer.

Part 8

She learned that good observers protect animals while they investigate. A photograph and several matching clues were enough to solve the mystery.

Draw, tell, or write

Draw your favorite part of the story. Tell a grown-up what happened before it and what happened next.

My favorite part, and why I chose it

STORY QUIZ

Think about the story

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Read each question and all the choices. Circle one answer. A grown-up can read aloud; you can point or say your answer, too.

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1. Where did Ruby find the striped feather?

A. Inside a lunch box	B. Beneath an old pine tree	C. On a duck boat

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

2. What did Ruby do instead of picking up the feather?

A. She took a photo	B. She buried it	C. She blew it away

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

3. Which bird did the clues point to?

A. A large hawk	B. A pond duck	C. A small owl

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

Questions 4 to 5

4. What extra clue did Ruby hear at dusk?

A. A dog barking	B. A screech owl calling	C. A bicycle bell

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

5. How did Ruby protect the owl?

A. She stayed away from the hollow	B. She carried it home	C. She tapped on its tree

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

ANSWER GUIDE

For the grown-up

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Keep this page separate from the child's activity. Read directions aloud when helpful, and invite the child to explain their ideas.

1. B - Beneath an old pine tree

Beneath an old pine tree

2. A - She took a photo

She took a photo

3. C - A small owl

A small owl

4. B - A screech owl calling

A screech owl calling

5. A - She stayed away from the hollow

She stayed away from the hollow

Keep exploring

Draw your favorite part of the story. Tell a grown-up what happened before it and what happened next.