

# The Nesting Quilt

## A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

**Themes:** Family, Birds, Habitats, Crafting

**Book Brief:** A young girl makes connections between her family preparing for a new baby and the birds she watches outside caring for their own babies.

**Author and Illustrator:**  
Cathryn Falwell

**Content Connections:**  
Science, Social Studies



## TIME TO READ!



### BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

**The Cover:** What clues does the cover illustration give you about what quilts are made of? Does anyone in your family make quilts?

**The Pictures:** Flip briefly through some of the pages.

What do the pictures tell you about the story's setting and plot?

**Prior Knowledge:** What does the word “nesting” mean? What word do you already know from the larger word? How does recognizing the word chunk help you guess the meaning of the larger word? How many students in the class have younger siblings? Older siblings? Make a chart or graph on the board.

**Vocabulary:** nesting, quilt, loon, finch

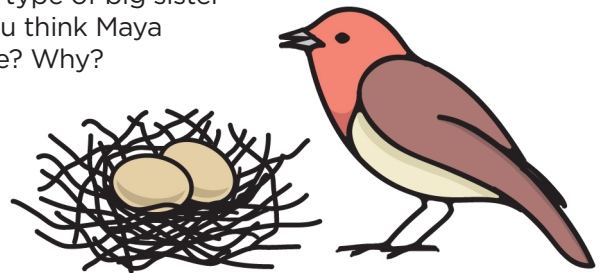
**Purpose for Reading:** In this story, the little girl makes self-to-world connections between what is happening in her family and different types of birds. Think about the kinds of connections you can make as you hear her story.

## WHILE WE READ

### MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ Do you think Maya's grandmother lives close to her? Explain.
- ◆ What do you think about the wood ducks having to jump when they are just a day old?
- ◆ What types of activities does Maya like to do?
- ◆ What evidence from the text supports your answer?
- ◆ Why is it necessary to prepare for a new baby?

- ◆ What inspired Maya's quilt design?
- ◆ What type of big sister do you think Maya will be? Why?



## LET'S THINK ABOUT

**Our Purpose:** What type of connections did you make while listening to this story? Be sure to say which part of the text helped you make the connection.

**Extending Our Thinking:** What other animal species could you compare with humans in their similarities of preparing for new family members? What animals do you think might treat their young the most like humans do? Why? Brainstorm with a classmate and share your answer with the class. What responsibilities come with being a big sister or brother?

### NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



Reading Is  
Fundamental