

Classroom Discussion and Activity Guide

Extension Activity: Reflection—Text-to-Self; Text-to-World

Extension Activity: Critical Thinking & Writing—What Makes A Human?
What Makes Me?

What Makes a Bird?

by Megan Pomper, illustrated by Maia Hoekstra

A whimsical, inquiry-based meditation on why a bird is a bird.

A child wanders through nature and invites readers to think about how we categorize the world around us.



ISBN: 9781771476133

Ages 4 to 7, Grade K-3

Before Reading:

- Picture a bird in your head. Which bird comes to mind? Did your classmates think of the same bird as you?
- Think about the title *What Makes a Bird?* and make a list of bird characteristics.

After Reading:

Reflection—Text-to-Self

- How do you describe yourself? Share some characteristics with your classmates.
- Look at the “Name the Birds” section at the back of the book. What would you name the three birds that came from the artist’s imagination? Do you have an idea for your own bird?

Reflection—Text-to-World

- Are human beings put into categories? Why? What might the benefits and downsides be?



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Text Forms: Realistic Fiction; Hybrid Text

Cross-Curricular Connection: Science

Language Arts: Questioning; Critical Thinking

Social-Emotional Learning: Self-Awareness; Social Awareness

Character Education: Curiosity; Compassion

READING LEVELS

Fountas & Pinnell: E

Lexile® Measure: 520L

Common Core: RL.1, W.1, SL.1, L.1



Critical Thinking & Writing: What Makes A Human? What Makes Me?

In the story, birds were harder to categorize than the child expected. Practice your own critical thinking. What makes a human? Think about physical traits and character traits. Do your ideas match what your classmates think?



The child realizes that there is a lot of overlap in categories and that, ultimately, you can define yourself. What makes *you*? How do you describe yourself?



