July 2023

Girl Versus Squirrel



Vocabulary Possibilities: sweet, seeds, lens cap, binoculars, cardinals, flickers, finches, chickadees, gobbled, anticipated, disappointed, towered, deterred, scrabbled, shinnied, seized, skedaddled, pondered, plotted, clambered, obstacles, pronounced, triumph, dazzled, kits

Pg. 1-2	 How would you describe Pearl's backyard? The bird feeders? Have you ever fed birds before? What do they eat? What kind of birds can you think of or name?
Pg. 3-4	 What do you think Pearl will see when she looks through her binoculars? What kind of animals can you think of that eat peanuts?
Pg. 5-6	 What do you think a home for a squirrel looks like? How do you think Pearl was feeling when the squirrels ate the peanuts she put out for the birds? What made her feel that way?
Pg. 7-8	 How would you describe Pearl's plan to keep the squirrels away from the feeder? Do you think it would work? What would your plan be to keep the squirrels away from the feeder?
Pg. 9-10	 How would you describe the squirrel climbing up the pole? Would you say the squirrel is brave, determined, hungry? What do you think will happen to the squirrel next?
Pg. 11-12	 Listen to what Pearl says to the squirrel. How do you think she's feeling? For what reasons do you think the squirrel keeps coming back? If you were Pearl, what would you do next?
Pg. 13-14	 What do you think Pearl will try next? Tell me about a time you had a challenge and you were determined like Pearl What does Pearl mean by "put that squirrel to the test?"
Pg. 15-16	 What does Pearl mean by odds and ends? If you were to create an obstacle course for a squirrel, what materials would you use? How has Pearl's feelings changed from the squirrel's first visit?
Pg. 17-18	 What tools did you notice Pearl used to build her creation? What do you think the squirrel will have to do to get to the peanuts in the

	teacup?
Pg. 19-20	 What do you think Pearl will see when she looks through the binoculars? Have you noticed any other birds or animals in the story? Where did they go?
Pg. 21-22	 What do you notice about the obstacle course? Show me how you would move to these words: leap, scamper, spin, swing, whirl, scramble, jump, clutch, clamber, crunch.
Pg. 23-24	 What do we learn about the squirrel on this page? Pearl talks about kits. What do you think a kit could be? How do you know?
P. 25-26	 In what ways have Pearl's feelings about the squirrel changed from the beginning of the story to the end? What have we learned about squirrels?
P. 27-28	 How has Pearl's backyard set up changed? What has she added from the first three feeders with suet, seeds, and peanuts? What other animals do you notice now?