

These notes are for:

- 4+
- Preschool, Primary

Key Learning Areas:

- English
- Art
- Science

Example of:

- Picture Book
- Poetry

Experience of:

- Visual Literacy
- Reading & Writing
- Rhythm & Rhyme
- Speaking & Listening
- Compare & Contrast

Values addressed:

- Overcoming difficulties
- Decision making
- Bravery

Themes:

- Change
- Fears & Worries
- Challenges
- Flying
- Birds

*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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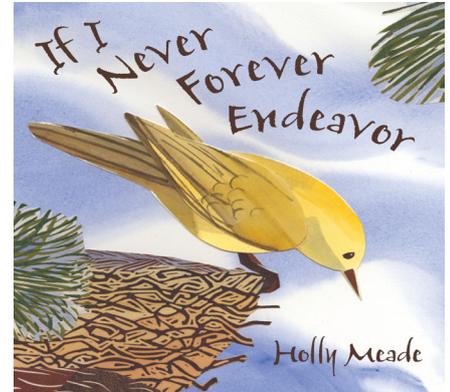
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If I Never Forever Endeavor

If I Never Forever Endeavor

by: Holly Meade
 ISBN: 9780763640712
 ARRP: \$29.95
 NZRRP: \$31.99
 Pages: 32
 March 2011



Outline:

A fledgling teeters at the edge of his nest in a gorgeously illustrated tale sure to resonate with anyone facing a rite of passage, change, or challenge.

Safe inside its cozy nest, a young bird considers whether or not to give his new wings a try. What if he tries and the wings don't work, and he flails, plummets, and looks foolish? Then again, what if his wings take him swooping and gliding, sailing and flying through a great big wonderful world? He'll never know if he never endeavors to try. With the help of her bold, beautiful collage artwork, Caldecott Honor-winning artist Holly Meade offers a gentle nudge for hesitant fledglings of all ages and species to step out, to dare, to try . . . and to fly.

Author/ Illustrator Information:

Holly Meade earned a Caldecott Honor for her illustrations in *Hush! A Thai Lullaby*, by Minfong Ho. She is also the illustrator of *Peek! A Thai Hide-and-Seek* by Minfong Ho; *And Then Comes Halloween* by Tom Brenner; *On the Farm* and *In the Wild* by David Elliott; and many others. A longtime New Englander, Holly Meade lives in Sedgwick, Maine.

How to use these notes:

These notes are to be used in conjunction with the text *If I Never Forever Endeavor*. This story works on many levels. The suggested activities are therefore for a wide age and ability range. Please select accordingly.

Classroom Ideas for *If I Never Forever Endeavor*:

BEFORE READING *IF I NEVER FOREVER ENDEAVOR*:

- Ask students to view the cover and title. Identify the following:
 - The title of the book
 - The author
 - The illustrator
- Discuss the following with students: What is the role of the author?; What is the role of the illustrator?
- What category of book is *If I Never Forever Endeavor*? For example is it fiction, non-fiction, biography? Where would you expect to find it in your library?
- Look at the cover and title of the book. What clues are there about the story content from the art and title. What does this tell you about the book? What do you think the book will be about?
- Look up the meaning of 'endeavor' in a dictionary. Use the word in a sentence. Why do you think the author chose to use this word in the title of this book?

ACTIVITIES & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Discuss with the class why the little bird is afraid to leave the nest at the start of the book? Why does the little bird think he should leave the nest? Create a table with two columns and a heading for each. Fill in what the bird sees as points in favour of leaving the nest and what he sees as points in favour of staying in the nest.
- What decision does the little bird make about leaving the nest? Discuss with the class why they think the bird made this choice. Do they think there were reasons beyond what the bird stated for his choice to leave the nest?
- Discuss with the class what new things they have been afraid to try. What were they afraid of? What decision making processes did they use to help them make a decision? What did they decide in the end? Were they happy with their decision?
- Create a word bank of the descriptive words beginning with "f" that are used to describe the bird's thoughts on flying. Ask the class if they can think of more words beginning with "f" that could be added to this word bank. Ask the students to write their own descriptions of what they think it would feel like to fly using as many of the words from the word bank as possible.
- What colours are used in the artwork? Ask the students to draw their own pictures of nature using only these colours. Ask the students to draw their own pictures of nature using only colours that they wouldn't normally find present.
- The story is told in verse, using words and lines that rhyme and words and lines that do not. Read the text aloud and identify the parts that rhyme. Ask the students which parts they feel are more effective. Ask the students to write their own poem that rhymes, then ask them to write a poem that does not rhyme, and finally, ask them to write a poem that uses a combination of rhyme and non rhyme. Which of these did they find easier?
- Research the life cycle of birds and how they raise their young. Draw a flow chart following a bird's life from egg to old age.
- Research the different types of nests built by birds. What types of birds build certain types of nests? Get the class to build their own birds' nests using sticks, leaves and other natural materials that a bird might use to build a nest, and hold it together with, glue sticky tape and cardboard.