My Journey Home

Family Connection

This week your child is reading *The Screech Owl Who Liked Television*, the true story of a wild owl that lived with the author’s family.

**Vocabulary on the Go**  Ask your child to describe some things that Yammer the owl does in the author’s household. Talk about what you would like—or not like—about having an owl in your home. As each of you talk, try to use some of these words.

incident  pounced  tempted  arrangement  presence

**Facts and Opinions**  Together, think of a wild animal or bird that lives near your home. What do you and your child think are the good and bad points of having it live there? Give your opinions about it. Then help your child use books or websites to learn more facts about the animal or bird. Has your opinion of it changed? Why or why not?

**Tip!**  A fact is a statement that can be proved true. An opinion is a statement about a person’s thoughts, feelings, or beliefs.

**From a Pet’s Viewpoint**  Take turns telling about a regular day in your house from a pet’s point of view. Tell how you, the pet, understand what happens during the rush to get to school, a meal, or another event.

**Challenge**  Ask your child to write a journal entry from the viewpoint of the pet.
A Fable  Read this ancient fable with your child, and discuss the lesson to be learned.

The Grasshopper and the Owl

An owl lived in the hollow of a tree, where she slept by day, preparing for her night of hunting. One day her rest was disturbed by the presence of a grasshopper, who sat on a nearby branch and chirped loudly all day long. “Please have some consideration and be quiet,” the owl begged the grasshopper, but he ignored her requests.

At last, the owl could not stand it any longer. She came up with a plan. She tempted the grasshopper in her pleasantest voice, “Oh, Grasshopper. Your song is so sweet, like this delicious nectar. Won’t you come into my home and share the sweet nectar with me?”

The grasshopper was proud to have his song complimented. And the thought of delicious nectar made him answer promptly. “Of course!” he said, with a proud smile.

No sooner had the grasshopper entered the owl’s hollow than the owl pounced upon him and ate him up.

Lesson: Do not let flattery lower your guard against those that want to harm you.

Owl Fact Sheet  Real-life owls are not as wise as owls in stories, but they do have extraordinary senses of sight and hearing. Help your child use books and the Internet to create a fact sheet about owls’ astonishing senses.

Book Links
• *Pale Male: Citizen Hawk of New York City*, by Janet Schulman
• *Wings*, by William Loizeaux  CHALLENGE

Internet Challenge  Together, view local wildlife organizations’ websites to discover what kinds of owls and other birds of prey (raptors) might live in your area.