

# Best Practices

NEW EDITION

# in Reading

Level

**D**

**Build Comprehension!  
Develop Critical Thinking!**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS



## LESSON 1 Question

- FICTION** Out of the Light, Into the Night . . . . . 5
- NONFICTION** The Truth About Bats . . . . . 11

## LESSON 2 Understand Genre

- FICTION** Light Up the Town . . . . . 19
- NONFICTION** Don't Make Light of This! . . . . . 25

## LESSON 3 Visualize

- FICTION** Secret of the Sea . . . . . 33
- NONFICTION** Into the Deep Sea . . . . . 39

## LESSON 4 Make Connections

- FICTION** A New Beginning . . . . . 47
- NONFICTION** This Time Was Different . . . . . 53

## LESSON 5 Understand Genre

- FICTION** Fires of Pele . . . . . 61
- NONFICTION** Mauna Loa: Long Mountain . . . . . 67





# OUT OF THE LIGHT, INTO THE NIGHT

BATS! They're strange, unique, and also a bit scary. They are just the kind of animal that makes people wonder, "Now, where did *they* come from?" This Native American story has one answer for that question.



## Think About Genre

Literature can be classified by genre (ZHON-ruh), or type. Some works are fiction—made-up stories. A **folktale** is **fiction** from long ago. Folktales began as stories told rather than written down. One kind of folktale is the *pourquoi* (pur-KWAH) tale. *Pourquoi* means "why." In a "why" tale, the storyteller explains how something came to be.



What can you expect from this kind of folktale? Complete each sentence below so that it tells about a *pourquoi* tale.

This story will be set in a time that is

\_\_\_\_\_.

This story will explain why

\_\_\_\_\_.

Because this story is fiction, the characters

\_\_\_\_\_.

## Think About the Topic

Reread the above introduction to "Out of the Light, Into the Night." Ask yourself: *What do I know about how bats act?* List two things you know.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Preview and Predict

Preview the story. Think about the title and the illustrations. Make a prediction about what will happen in "Out of the Light, Into the Night."

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

STRATEGIES

QUESTION  
DRAW CONCLUSIONS  
VISUALIZE  
UNDERSTAND GENRE

OUT OF THE LIGHT,  
INTO THE NIGHT

adapted from a Native American (Anishinabe) story

QUESTION

It is a good idea to ask yourself questions as you read. If you find yourself asking *What's happening here?*, stop and try to answer your question before you continue reading.

Who's telling the story? The people in the illustration look as if they are sitting in a circle listening to a storyteller. I think the storyteller is talking.

Why does the storyteller tell the listeners to come closer?

You who are afraid of the night, come closer. Sit as near to the bright fire as you dare. Now look to your right and to your left. Your friends are near you, are they not? So you can see that you have nothing to fear. It is important that you are not afraid here in the night. And it is important that you understand this: The night **creature** I will tell about is not to be feared, either.

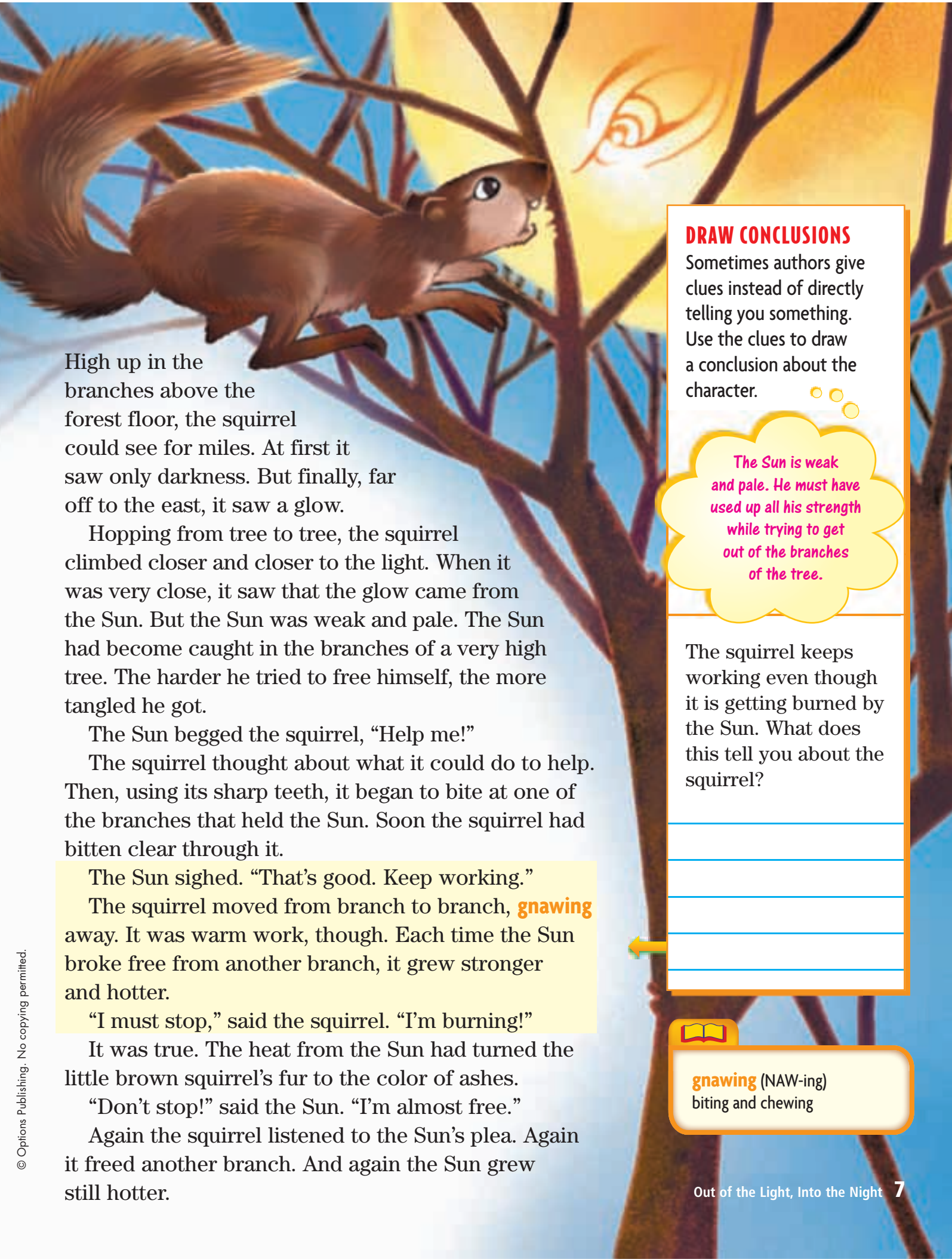
Just as you rise with the Sun and sleep when he sleeps, so do many of the creatures of the forest. That's why it was so strange one morning long ago when the Sun's light did not shine. Owl did not mind, for she hunts at night. But those who flee her claws were worn out and wondered out loud.

"Where is the Sun?" asked the field mouse and a little green frog. Soon, even the birds and the animals that hunt by day understood that somehow the Sun was missing.

It was a small, brown squirrel who found the missing Sun.



**creature** (KREE-chur)  
a living thing; animal



High up in the branches above the forest floor, the squirrel could see for miles. At first it saw only darkness. But finally, far off to the east, it saw a glow.

Hopping from tree to tree, the squirrel climbed closer and closer to the light. When it was very close, it saw that the glow came from the Sun. But the Sun was weak and pale. The Sun had become caught in the branches of a very high tree. The harder he tried to free himself, the more tangled he got.

The Sun begged the squirrel, "Help me!"

The squirrel thought about what it could do to help. Then, using its sharp teeth, it began to bite at one of the branches that held the Sun. Soon the squirrel had bitten clear through it.

The Sun sighed. "That's good. Keep working."

The squirrel moved from branch to branch, **gnawing** away. It was warm work, though. Each time the Sun broke free from another branch, it grew stronger and hotter.

"I must stop," said the squirrel. "I'm burning!"

It was true. The heat from the Sun had turned the little brown squirrel's fur to the color of ashes.

"Don't stop!" said the Sun. "I'm almost free."

Again the squirrel listened to the Sun's plea. Again it freed another branch. And again the Sun grew still hotter.

### DRAW CONCLUSIONS

Sometimes authors give clues instead of directly telling you something. Use the clues to draw a conclusion about the character.

*The Sun is weak and pale. He must have used up all his strength while trying to get out of the branches of the tree.*

The squirrel keeps working even though it is getting burned by the Sun. What does this tell you about the squirrel?

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**gnawing** (NAW-ing)  
biting and chewing

## VISUALIZE

Sometimes when you read, there are no illustrations to help you figure out what is happening. You have to imagine what something looks like and make a “picture” of it in your mind.

The storyteller says that the Sun was now “riding high in the sky.” What do you see in your mind that you did not see before?

## UNDERSTAND GENRE

(pourquoi tale)

How does the story explain why the bat flies at night?

**height** (HITE)

how high something is

“I’m burning from the heat,” said the squirrel. “Even my tail has burned away!”

“Just a little more,” pleaded the Sun. “A little more!”

Once more the squirrel went to work. It was nearly blind from the brightness of the Sun, but it sensed when the Sun was finally freed from the branches. Soon the Sun was riding high in the sky, where it was supposed to be.

Even from that **height**, though, the Sun could see the poor squirrel. Gone were its bushy tail and the brown fur that had covered its body. His eyes were closed against the brightness of the Sun.

“Poor thing,” said the Sun. “You helped me, and now I will help you. What one thing have you wanted to do all your life?”

“Fly,” was the squirrel’s simple answer.

“Then so you shall. But you will fly only at night, when you won’t have to face my bright light.”

With that, the creature that had once been a squirrel spread its new wings and began to fly. And so it does every night when the Sun goes down in the west. For that is how the first bat came to be.

