

THE GHOST OF DONLEY FARM



by Jaime Gardner Johnson
illustrated by Laurie Allen Klein

THE GHOST OF DONLEY FARM

Rebecca, the red-tailed hawk, is not afraid of ghosts! One night, she bravely ventures into the barn to meet the famous ghost of Donley Farm. But when she finally meets him, Rebecca is surprised to discover that this “ghost” is much more familiar than she’d expected. Join Rebecca as she stays up late to talk with her new friend and find out what they have in common and how they are different.

It’s so much more than a picture book . . . this book is specifically designed to be both a fun-to-read story and a launch pad for discussions and learning. We encourage adults to do the activities with the young children in their lives both at home and in the classroom. Free online resources and support at www.ArbordalePublishing.com include:

- For Creative Minds as seen in the book (in English & Spanish):
 - Diurnal or Nocturnal
 - Raptor Diets
 - True or False
 - Raptor Adaptations
- Teaching Activities (to do at home or school):
 - Reading Questions
 - Language Arts
 - Science
 - Math
 - Geography
 - Coloring Pages
- Interactive Quizzes: Reading Comprehension, For Creative Minds, and Math Word Problems
- English and Spanish Audiobooks
- Related Websites
- Aligned to State, Common Core & NGSS Standards
- Accelerated Reader and Reading Counts! Quizzes
- Lexile and Fountas & Pinnell Reading Levels

eBooks with Auto-Flip, Auto-Read, and selectable English and Spanish text and audio are available for purchase online.

Thanks to Deb Oexmann, Director of Brukner Nature Center, for verifying the accuracy of the information in this book.

Jaime Gardner Johnson is a ninth grade English teacher and former director of education at Brukner Nature Center. As a life-long nature lover, she has worked with rehabilitation centers for both raptors and other wildlife. Jaime lives with her husband and son in Kamuela, Hawaii, where they enjoy hiking in the volcanic hills in search of pueo owls. *The Ghost of Donley Farm* is her debut picture book. Visit her website at www.jaimegardnerjohnson.weebly.com.

Laurie Allen Klein has been a freelance artist for nearly 25 years. Over the last several years, she has worked as the on-staff artist for a marine park, where she does everything from painting life-size sea animal murals to illustrating children’s activity books. In addition to *The Ghost of Donley Farm*, Laurie has illustrated *Fur and Feathers*, *Where Should Turtle Be?*, *Little Skink’s Tail*, *Solar System Forecast*, *Meet the Planets*, *If a Dolphin Were a Fish* and *Balloon Trees* for Arbordale. She was the winner of the Outstanding Pennsylvania Author/Illustrator Award from the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association in 2008 and is a member of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators. Laurie lives in Florida. See more of her artwork at www.lauriekleinarts.com.



Jaime G. Johnson



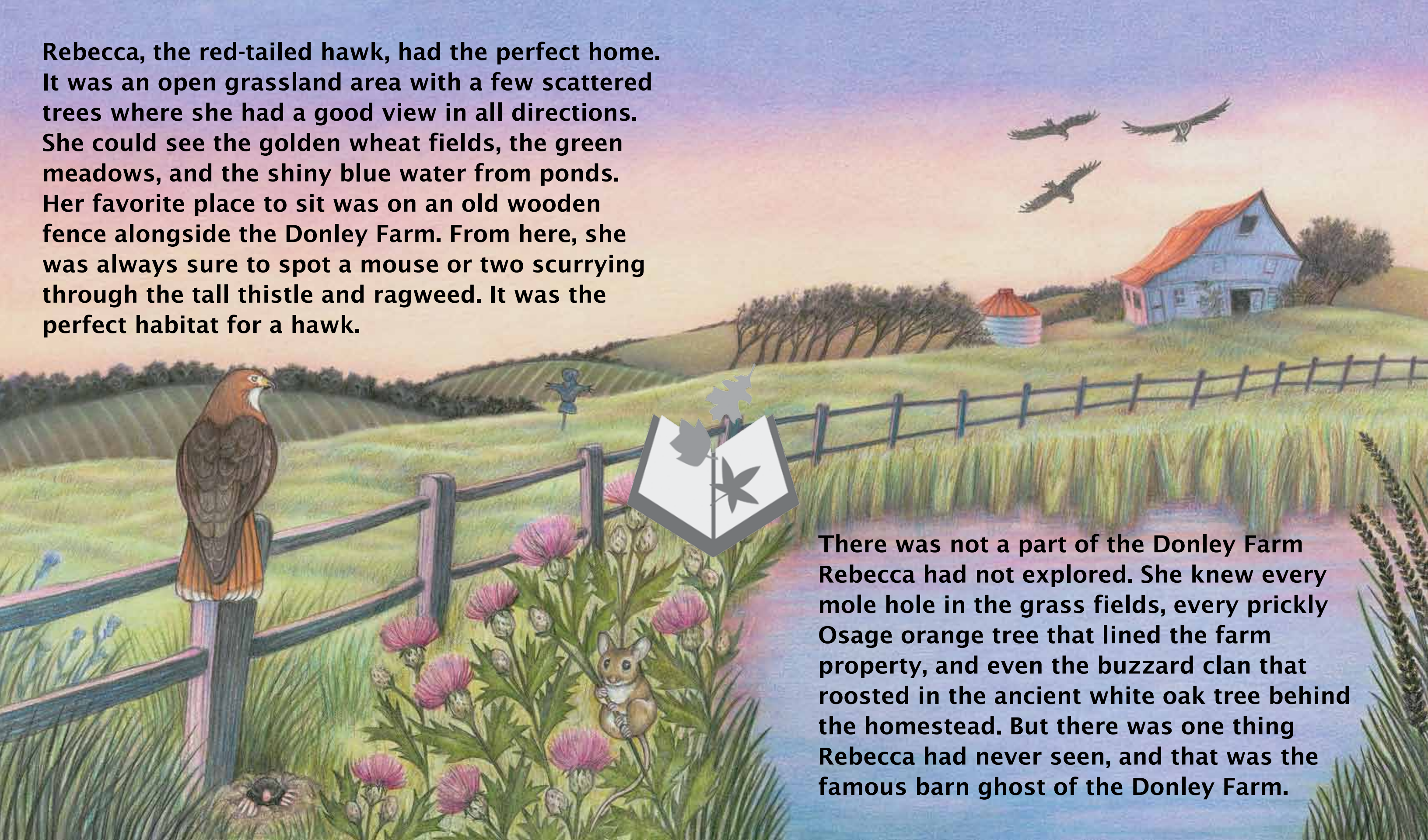
Laurie Allen Klein

THE GHOST OF DONLEY FARM

by Jaime Gardner Johnson
illustrated by Laurie Allen Klein



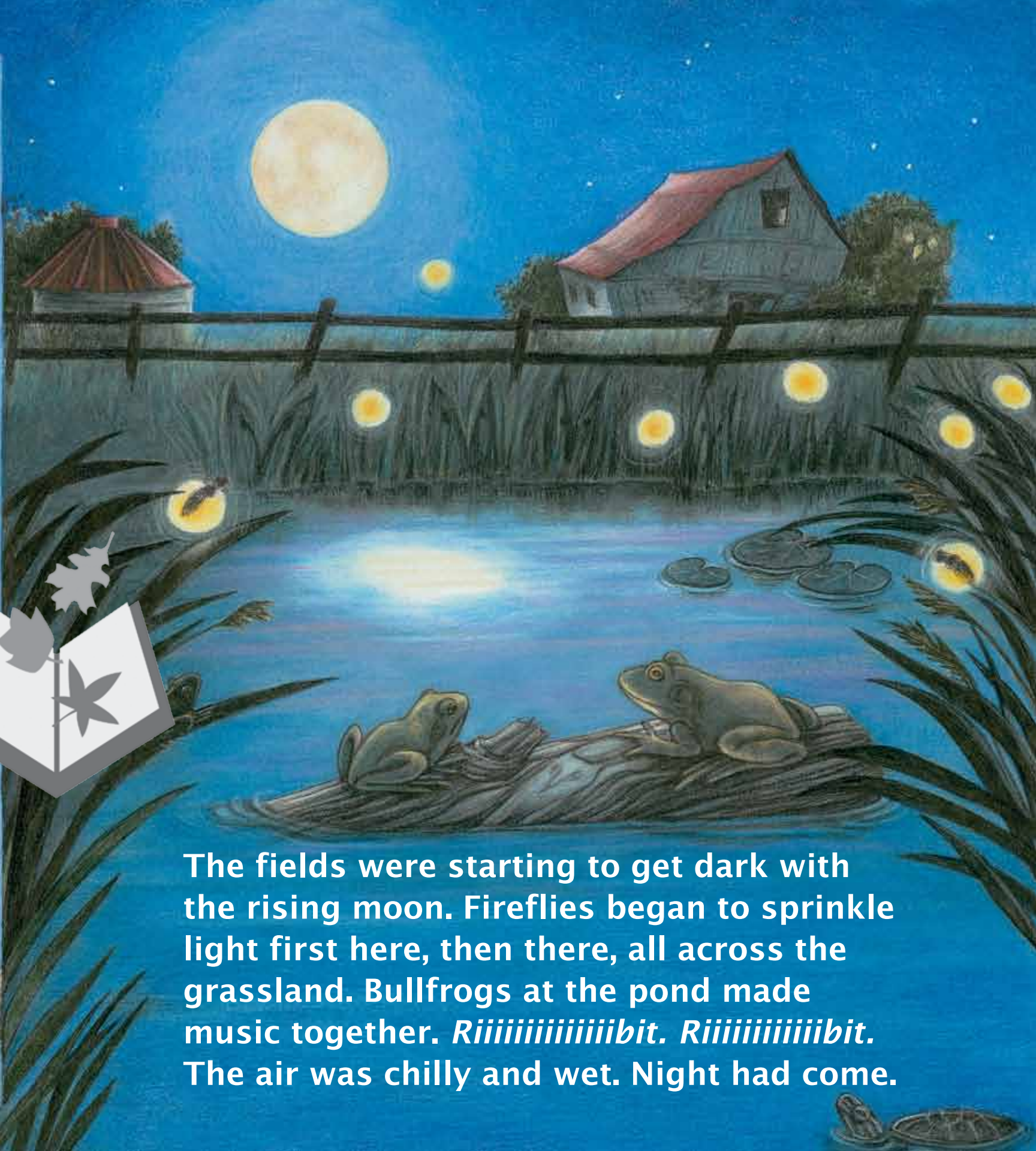
Rebecca, the red-tailed hawk, had the perfect home. It was an open grassland area with a few scattered trees where she had a good view in all directions. She could see the golden wheat fields, the green meadows, and the shiny blue water from ponds. Her favorite place to sit was on an old wooden fence alongside the Donley Farm. From here, she was always sure to spot a mouse or two scurrying through the tall thistle and ragweed. It was the perfect habitat for a hawk.



There was not a part of the Donley Farm Rebecca had not explored. She knew every mole hole in the grass fields, every prickly Osage orange tree that lined the farm property, and even the buzzard clan that roosted in the ancient white oak tree behind the homestead. But there was one thing Rebecca had never seen, and that was the famous barn ghost of the Donley Farm.

Rebecca had heard that this ghost was nocturnal. Nocturnal animals come out only at night, unlike Rebecca. She was diurnal and active during the day. She wanted to see if this ghost really existed. She would need to stay up past the setting sun, and explore when the Big Dipper could finally be seen in the dark, open sky.

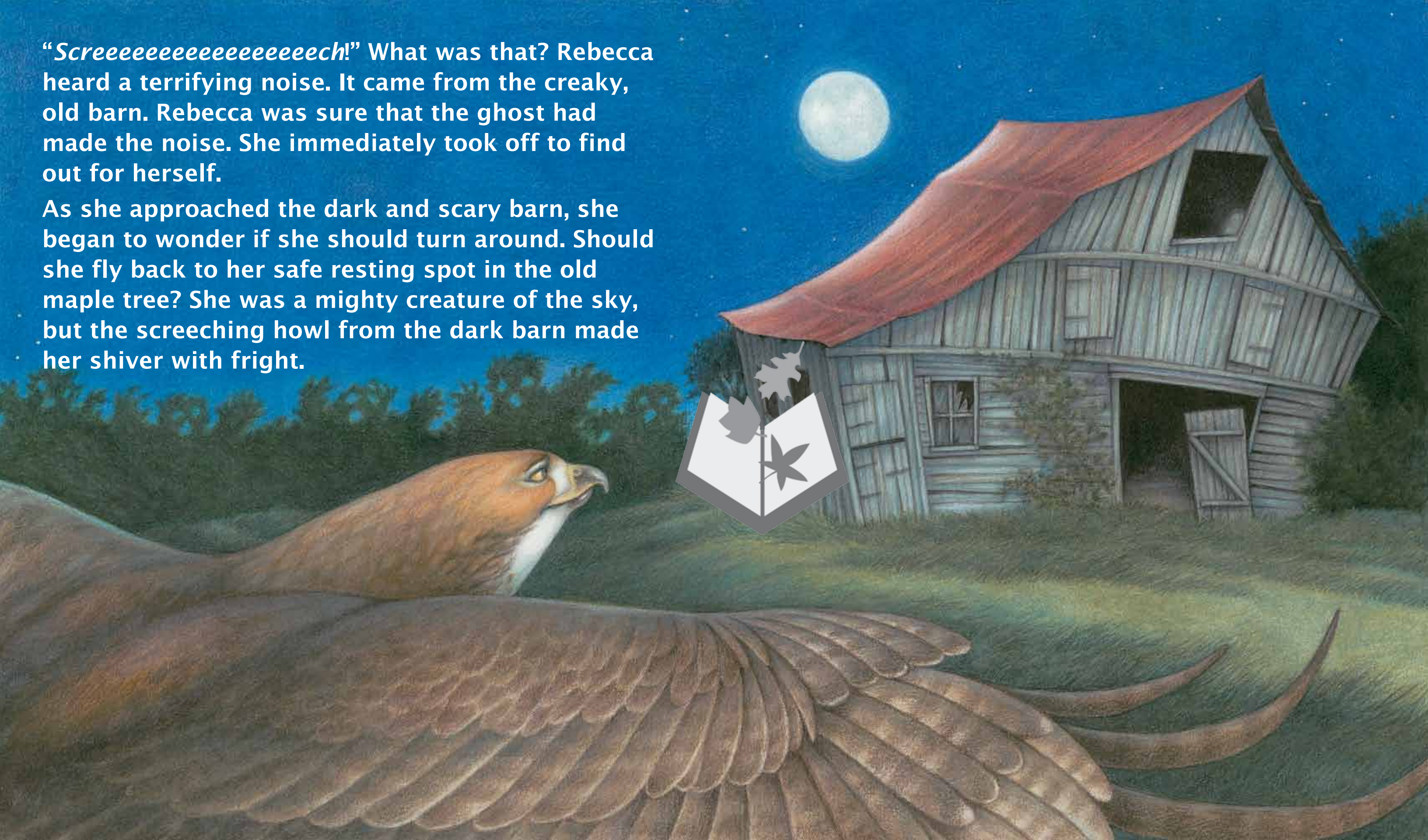
Was she scared? Of course not! Rebecca knew that her sharp talons and her pointy, curved beak made her one of the fiercest raptors of the sky.



The fields were starting to get dark with the rising moon. Fireflies began to sprinkle light first here, then there, all across the grassland. Bullfrogs at the pond made music together. *Riiiiiiiiiiiiibit. Riiiiiiiiiiiiibit.* The air was chilly and wet. Night had come.

“Screeeeeeeeeeeech!” What was that? Rebecca heard a terrifying noise. It came from the creaky, old barn. Rebecca was sure that the ghost had made the noise. She immediately took off to find out for herself.

As she approached the dark and scary barn, she began to wonder if she should turn around. Should she fly back to her safe resting spot in the old maple tree? She was a mighty creature of the sky, but the screeching howl from the dark barn made her shiver with fright.



She flew to a small open window and looked into the barn. Sure enough, a white figure was in the corner. She tried to see the ghost more clearly, but she could not see in the dark. Her eyesight was much better during the day. The ghost, however, noticed her and quietly came closer. Rebecca was suddenly scared, even with her sharp talons and pointy beak. The ghost moved closer without making a single sound. Rebecca saw that it had two legs, a beak, wings to help it fly, and most importantly, feathers. A bird, just like her! It had sharp talons and a sharp, curved beak. Like her, it was a raptor, a meat-eating bird of prey.



“What are you doing here in my house?” asked the strange ghost bird.

“I b-b-beg your pardon,” Rebecca whispered back, “but I wanted to see if there really was a ghost living in Donley’s barn.”

For Creative Minds

The For Creative Minds educational section may be photocopied or printed from our website by the owner of this book for educational, non-commercial uses. Cross-curricular teaching activities, interactive quizzes, and more are available online. Go to www.ArbordalePublishing.com and click on the book's cover to explore all the links.

Diurnal or Nocturnal

Animals that are active during the day and asleep at night are diurnal. Animals that are active at night and asleep during the day are nocturnal. Read the following sentences and look for clues to determine if the animal is diurnal or nocturnal.



A large dog sneaks up on the **skunk** in the dark of night. The skunk stamps her feet and throws her tail up in the air. She gives the other animal a warning before spraying.



The **garter snake** passes the morning hunting and basking in the warm sunlight. If a predator arrives, he will hide his head under some leaves and flail his tail until it goes away.



This **bluebird** is a helpful garden bird. He spends his days eating insects off the plants and defending his territory from other birds.



The bright afternoon sun helps this high-flying **red-tailed hawk** search for her next meal. She can see a grasshopper from more than 200 feet (61 m) away!



As night falls, a small, flying beetle with a glowing abdomen emerges. She flashes her light to signal to other **fireflies** to come out. Soon the field is glowing with their dancing lights.

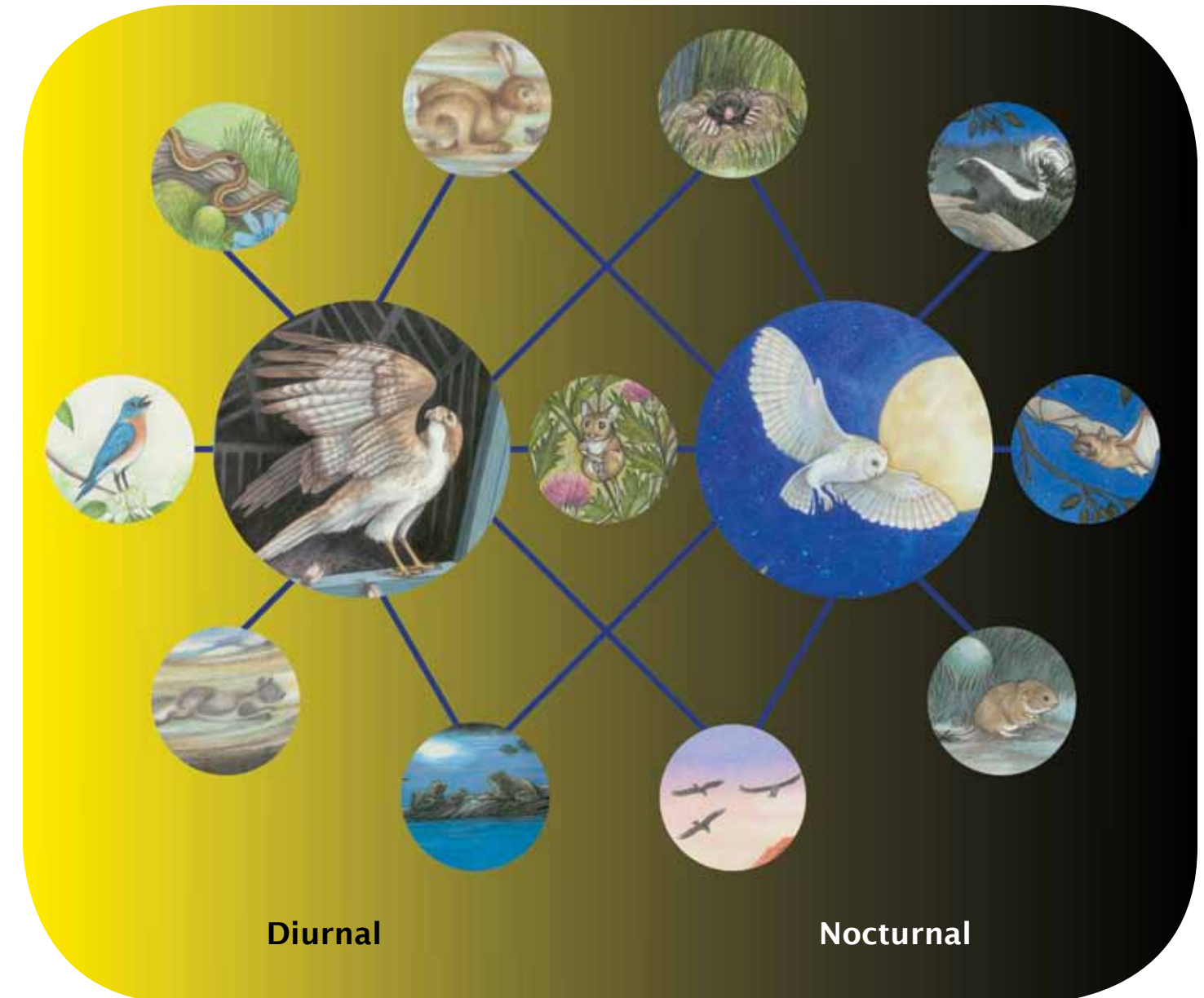


The **barn owl** sweeps over the field under the dark night sky. He flies slowly and silently, scanning the ground for prey.

Answers. Diurnal: garter snake, bluebird, red-tailed hawk
Nocturnal: skunk, fireflies, barn owl

Raptor Diets

An animal's **diet** is all of the things that animal eats or drinks. Raptors like barn owls and red-tailed hawks are **carnivores**, which means they eat other animals. Red-tailed hawks live on a diet of mostly small mammals, but will also eat reptiles, birds, and even insects. Red-tailed hawks can hunt prey more than twice their size. Barn owls usually eat small rodents and other birds. Although they prefer rodents, barn owls will eat other animals as well, including bats, insects, and toads. Because barn owls hunt rodents, many farmers set up nesting boxes to encourage barn owls to live around their barn and keep the rodent population down.



Raptor Fun Facts



A raptor is a bird that hunts and kills other animals for food. They can also be called birds of prey.

Raptors use their feet to grab onto their prey off the ground or snatch them out of midair. In fact, the word “raptor” comes from a Latin word, *rapare*, which means to grab, snatch, or carry off.

Most raptors are diurnal. Among raptors, only owls are nocturnal.

Because barn owls are nocturnal and red-tailed hawks are diurnal, they would not usually meet in the wild. Since they hunt at different times, they can share a territory and not compete with each other for food.



Barn owls live on six of the seven continents. The only continent where barn owls are not found is Antarctica.



Red-tailed hawks can reach speeds as fast as 120 miles (193km) per hour. Most birds have bones that are partly hollow. This makes the bird lighter and helps them to fly.



Red-tailed hawks live in many different habitats, including both wild areas and in regions where humans live.



Barn owls can swallow small prey whole. They later spit up the bones and other pieces of the animal that they cannot digest.

Raptor Adaptations

Owls and hawks are both raptors—birds who hunt and eat meat. Raptors are excellent predators because of special adaptations that help them hunt and catch their prey.



Both the red-tailed hawk and the barn owl have feathers that are adapted to help them hunt. The red-tailed hawk has long, stiff feathers that let her glide for a long time with very little effort. The barn owl has short, soft feathers that are completely silent in flight and allow him to sneak up on his prey.



Animals see by using sensory cells in their eyes, called rods and cones. Animals with many cones, like the red-tailed hawk, can see color clearly. Rods are sensitive to dim light and are best at detecting motion. Raptors have large eyes with many sensory cells that allow them to spot their prey from a great distance or in dim light.



Birds have three eyelids! Like humans, birds have an upper and a lower eyelid that close to block out light. A bird's third eyelid is see-through and closes from the side. This thin membrane protects the raptors' eyes from wind, water, dirt, and other debris. It also keeps the eyes moist so that the bird does not need to blink. This helps raptors keep their eyes focused on their prey during the hunt.



Talons are sharp claws on the raptors' feet that help them grab their prey. Owls use their feet and talons to squeeze their prey to death before eating them. Hawks have large talons that hold tight to squirming prey.



To my mother Margret Nancy Johnson, who fostered my love of the outdoors and encouraged me to write.—JGJ
 For BK and JK, who make all things possible.—LAK
 Thanks to Deb Oexmann, Director of Brukner Nature Center, for verifying the accuracy of the information in this book.
 The author donates a percentage of her royalties to Brukner Nature Center.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Johnson, Jaime Gardner.
 The ghost of Donley Farm / by Jaime Gardner Johnson ; illustrated by Laurie Allen Klein.
 pages cm
 ISBN 978-1-62855-451-9 (english hardcover) -- ISBN 978-1-62855-459-5 (english pbk.) -- ISBN 978-1-62855-475-5 (english downloadable ebook) -- ISBN 978-1-62855-491-5 (english interactive dual-language ebook) -- ISBN 978-1-62855-467-0 (spanish pbk.) -- ISBN 978-1-62855-483-0 (spanish downloadable ebook) -- ISBN 978-1-62855-499-1 (spanish interactive dual-language ebook) 1. Red-tailed hawk--Juvenile fiction. 2. Barn owl--Juvenile fiction. [1. Red-tailed hawk--Fiction. 2. Hawks--Fiction. 3. Barn owl--Fiction. 4. Owls--Fiction. 5. Nocturnal animals--Fiction.] I. Klein, Laurie Allen, illustrator. II. Title.
 PZ10.3.J644Gho 2014
 [E]--dc23

2014011143

Translated into Spanish: El fantasma de la granja Donley
 Lexile® Level: 750
 key phrases for educators: adaptations, diurnal/nocturnal

Bibliography:

Dunn, Jon L, Jonathan K. Alderfer, and Paul E. Lehman. National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern North America. Washington, D.C: National Geographic, 2008.
 Thompson, Bill. The Young Birder's Guide to Birds of North America (Peterson Field Guides). Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2012.
 Zickefoose, Julie. The Bluebird Effect: Uncommon Bonds with Common Birds. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2012.



Text Copyright 2014 © by Jaime Gardner Johnson
 Illustration Copyright 2014 © by Laurie Allen Klein

The "For Creative Minds" educational section may be copied by the owner for personal use or by educators using copies in classroom settings

Manufactured in China, June 2014
 This product conforms to CPSIA 2008
 First Printing

Arbordale Publishing
 Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464
 www.ArbordalePublishing.com



If you enjoy this book,
 look for other Arbordale books about birds:



and other Arbordale books illustrated by Laurie Allen Klein:



Includes 4 pages of
 learning activities.
 Look for more free activities
 online at
 ArbordalePublishing.com