

Chickadee: Criminal Mastermind

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Synopsis: Chickadee recounts how he went from a normal bird 'childhood' to a daring life of crime. One cold, snowy morning, shivering and hungry, he discovers a vault of gold--and steals from it! His natural coloring resembling a mask helps him blend in as he makes his rounds of the forest. It's an exciting life, with hawks to fend off and treasure to hide all over the forest... but is it as glamorous as it appears?

Suggested Reading Date: January 5th – National Bird Day

Activity Descriptions:

- Discuss how Chickadee's perspective of himself changed after he learned what a bird feeder was.
- Learn about the synonyms criminal mastermind, bandit, villain, rascalion, bad seed, thief, etc. and discuss differences between the words.
- Discuss local common birds and what bird seed is best for them.
- Have students make bird feeders:
 - "How-to" video: https://youtu.be/99Dm4hCuh_w
 - 32 Birdfeeder Templates: <https://happyhooligans.ca/32-homemade-bird-feeders/>
- Study chickadees and the various sounds they make including the Feebee Song which sounds like "cheeseburger": <https://youtu.be/NnrX1f6QgM>
- Create a chickadee puppet craft: <https://kidsactivitiesblog.com/81006/chickadee-shapes-craft/>

Related Websites:

- Author's Website: <https://www.monicasilvie.com>
- Illustrator's Website: <https://www.elinaellis.com/>
- Wild Kratts Video about Chickadees: <https://youtu.be/BY6Poom4Wko>
- Chickadee coloring page: <https://www.birdwatchingacademy.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/BLACK-CAPPED-CHICKADEE-Coloring-Pages.pdf>

Text to Text Connections:

The Bad Seed by Jory John

Nerdy Birdy by Aaron Reynolds

Knight Owl by Christopher Denise

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus by Mo Willems

Created By: Alicia Rogers