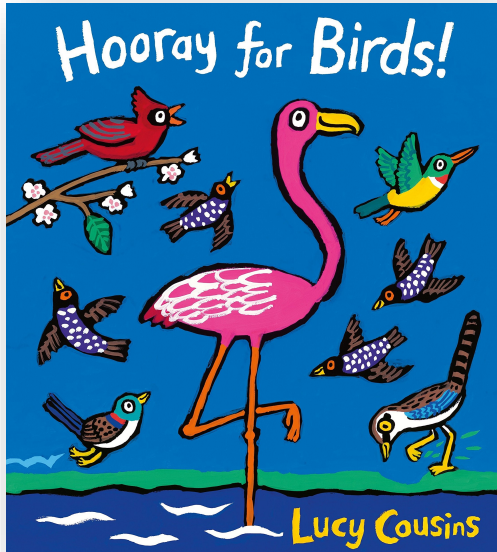


Writing Trait: Conventions and Word Choice

Learning Intention: What are the ways in which details may be added to writing? A mini peacock inquiry.

Carol.walters@sd71.bc.ca

Before Reading



By Lucy Cousins

Share this beautiful cover illustration and the back cover too. Linger on the front and back inside cover pages as well. Invite students to notice, think and wonder about this book. What might it be about? What are they noticing when they look ever so carefully at these amazing images? What bird names do they know? Uh oh, this could take a while!

Did your students notice open eyes except one on the inside cover? Did they notice closed eyes except one on the back inside cover? Chances are they will notice things that adults miss. These are details and they are delightful for the eyes of the viewer. Details are equally wonderful for the ears of a listener! Encourage your students to add details to the writing. But how is this best done?

During Reading

Pause during reading and ask children to name the featured bird. Offer time to turn and talk about what you would do if you were a (rooster/robin/woodpecker/swan etc.) for a day. As children share their responses you may want to start a chart listing the main ideas they are likely to share (habitat, appearance, predators and prey, food, lifecycle, movement and behavior, species). These central, or main ideas will be very important if you choose to launch an inquiry about birds.

After Reading

To launch a mini-inquiry about any one of the birds, turn back to a page and through discussion, create an ... I THINK I KNOW ... I WONDER chart. Once completed underline any ideas related to food in one colour; ideas related to habitat in another colour; movement in another etc.

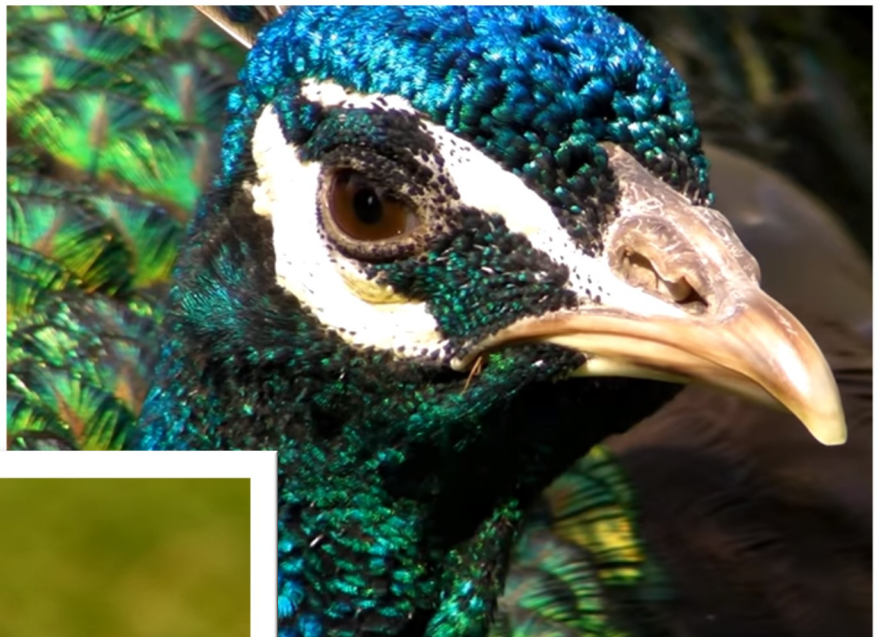
For this mini-inquiry we turned back to the peacock page in Hooray for Birds and created our chart. Next, we watched a YouTube video about peacocks. Because this video does not have any narration, we were able to continue adding ideas to our chart about peacocks.

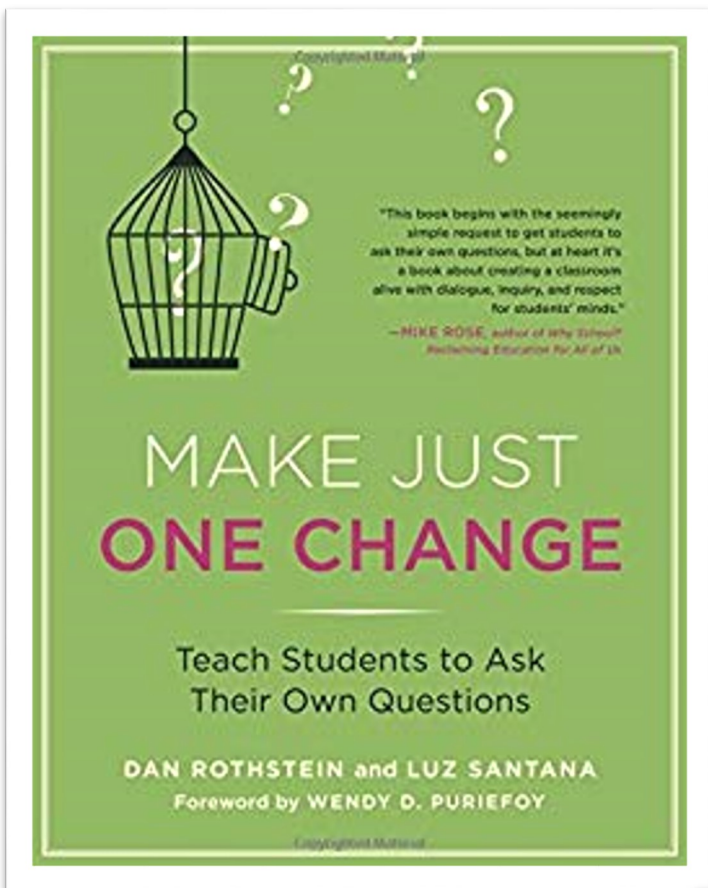
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jz-tjJhFHik>



With fascinating video footage, students will naturally be curious about peacocks and will start to ask questions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jz-tjJhEHlk>





"Teachers learning the (questioning) strategy for the first time were often struck by the deceptively simple change of getting student to ask their own questions." p.9

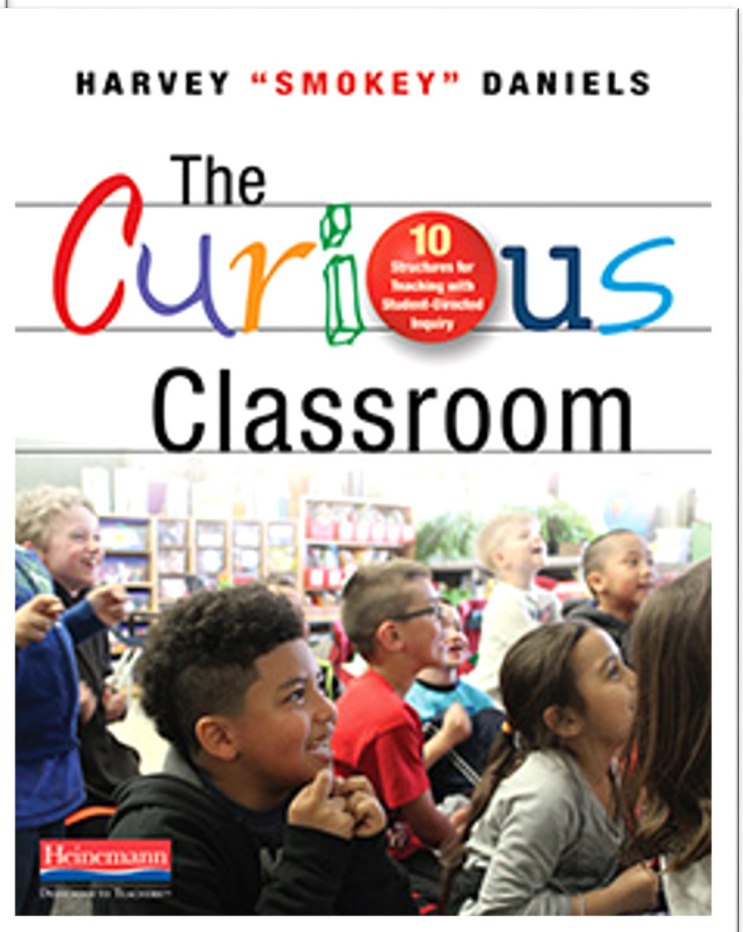
"There is but one change being asked of you in this book: you will be leading a process in which your students will be thinking and working by asking their own question, rather than by responding to question you ask." p. 4

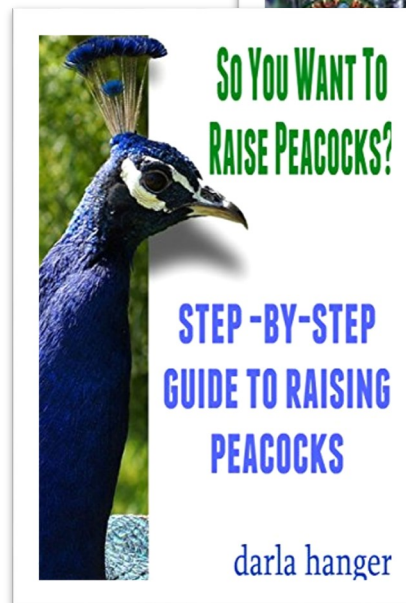
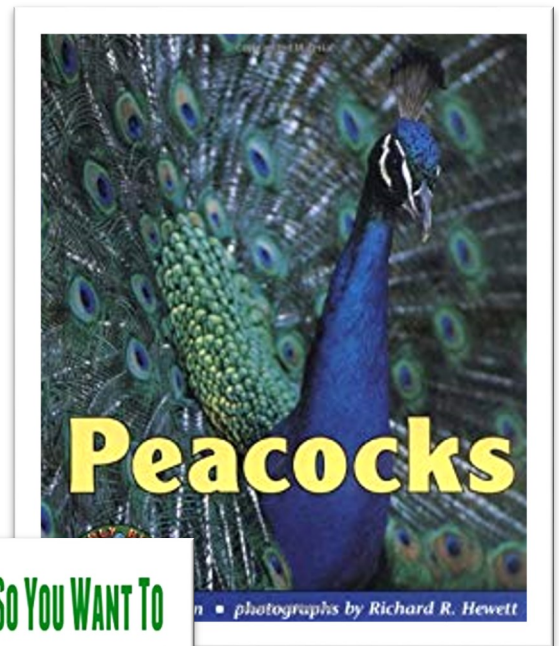
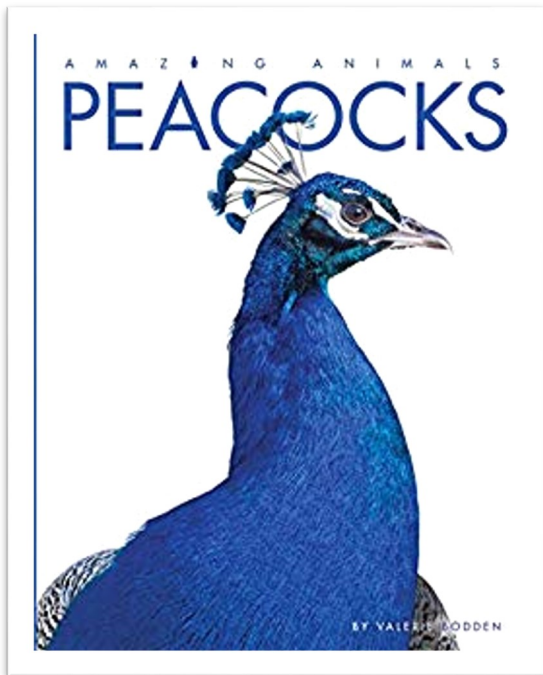
Make Just One Change: Teach Students to Ask Their Own Questions

by Rothstein and Santana 2017

In the introduction to *Curious Classrooms*, Smokey Harvey Daniels explains that, "This is a book about teaching with inquiry, which means building instruction out of children's curiosity. He suggests you begin with short, well-structured lessons." xi and xv

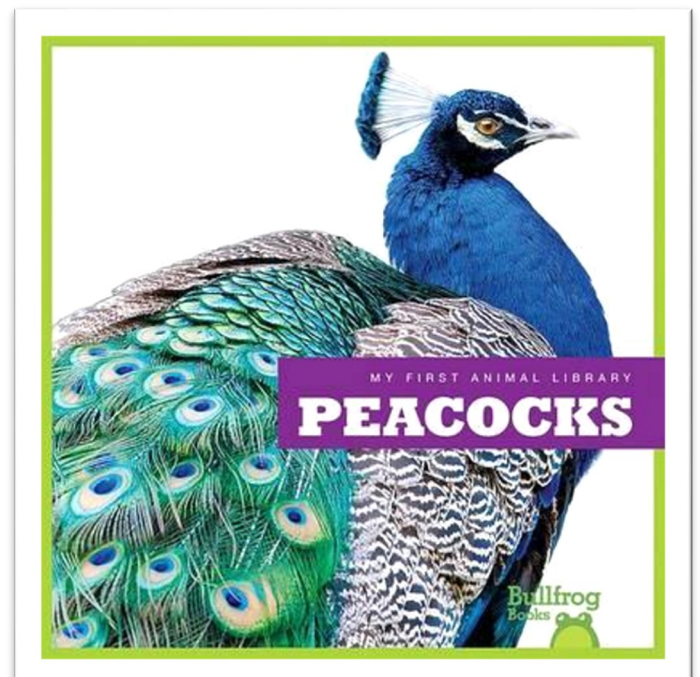
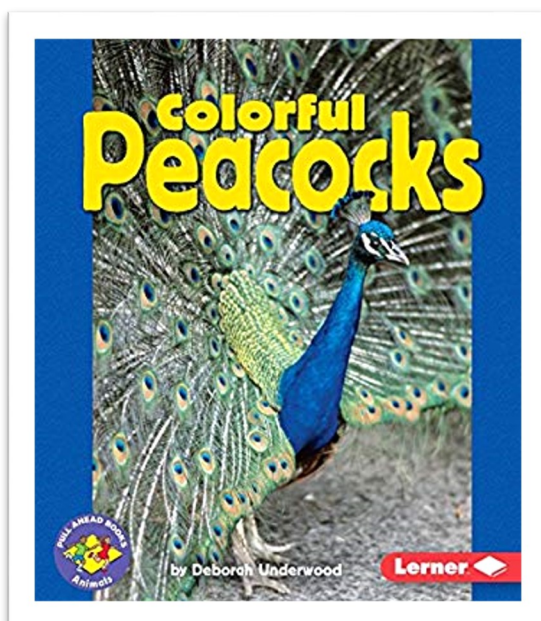
"In *Curious Classrooms*, we honour kids' questions and teaching them how to find answers for themselves." xiv





Invite lots and lots of peacock questions, then read aloud a book about peacocks to model the way in which facts can be collected and sorted under each of the main ideas headings.

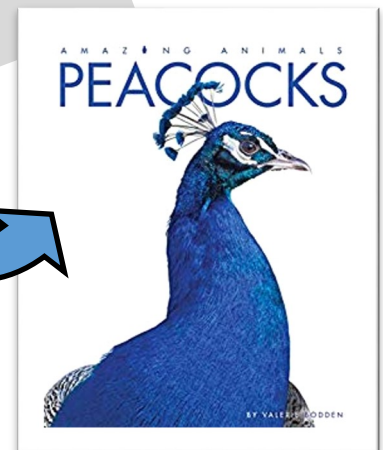
Once modelled, invite students to find additional facts from a variety of books to add to the class chart.



Details:	
What kinds of details do we hear?	
Pattern	
Colour	
Shape	
Texture	
Feelings	
Size/Length/Numbers/Quantities	
Feather Facts	
Taste	
See	
Smell	
Hear/Sounds	
Movement	

In Sarah Beynonbrown's grade 3/4 class at Courtenay Elementary, we filled the white board with ideas related to peacock facts. But we also recorded what kinds of facts we were hearing as Hooray for Birds and Amazing Animals; Peacock were read aloud. This helps students demystify what details are.

Did you know the cry of a peacock is louder than a police siren?



Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2018

1

Spelling

McSary

Whole Body Listening

Peacock Facts

- largest
- 3 types
 - blue
 - green
 - Congo
- males - train tail feathers
 - 200 feathers
 - 1.5m tall
- females - peahens
 - brown
 - grey
- warm rainforests
 - Africa, Asia
- worms, small snakes, pebbles
- gizzard
- 4-6 eggs - 1 month
- peachicks hatch
- preen - clean feathers
- heavy
- roost at night (sleep, rest)
- fact
- warning cry louder than a police siren!
- motion
- parks, zoos, farms

Bird Words

swoop cuddle

stretch busy

peck Tuwit

beak Tuwoo

cluck cluck!

wings swim

sing

cheep cheep

waddle

run

Show off

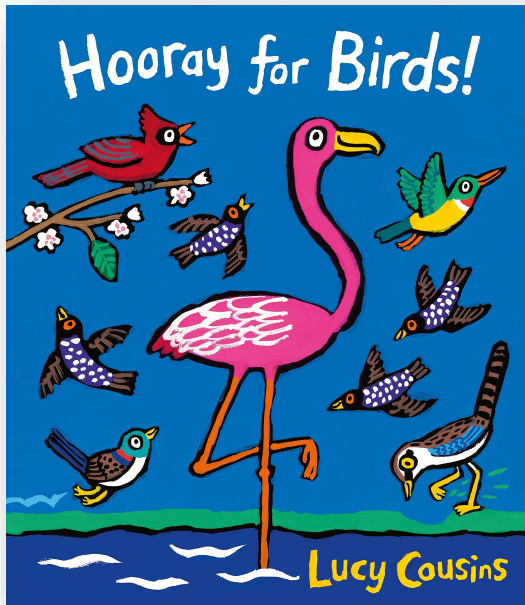
puff out your chest

nest

Details

use words to describe

- pattern
- colour
- shape
- texture
- feelings
- size
- clothes, fur, feathers, scales
- taste
- see/sight
- smell
- hear



With lots of gathered facts about peacocks, it's time to return to Hooray for Birds!

All those fascinating facts will be translated into marvelous details when writing ala Lucy Cousins.



By completing the following verse from the book, students will pack pages with fabulous facts about peacocks. Be prepared to be impressed!

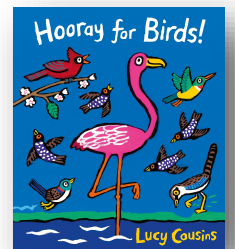
Gather all their pages and make a class book that will be read over and over ... guaranteed!

Can you imagine ...
Just for one day ...
You're a busy bird?
Yes, a bird!
Hooray!



Can you imagine ...
Just for one day ...
You're a busy bird?
Yes, a bird!
Hooray!

With Peacock research complete, students will be able to add far more than the simple text on this page!



	A peacock for a day you say? How great is that? Well let me see ...
	If I were a peacock for a day I'd gobble up tiny stones while people watched in horror. They'd shriek or scream and cry out in fear that I might become ill. I'd simply smirk at them knowing that my gizzard will handle those pebbles with ease.
	I'd laugh and ask, "Don't you know that my gizzard and stones help me digest the food I eat?" People are so silly aren't they?

I can add details when I write...



I can add details when I write...



Hooray for Birds!



Our class book about peacocks
Based on the book, Hooray for Birds!

By Lucy Cousins

	Can you imagine ...
	Just for one day ...
	You're a busy bird?
	Yes, a bird!
	Hooray!

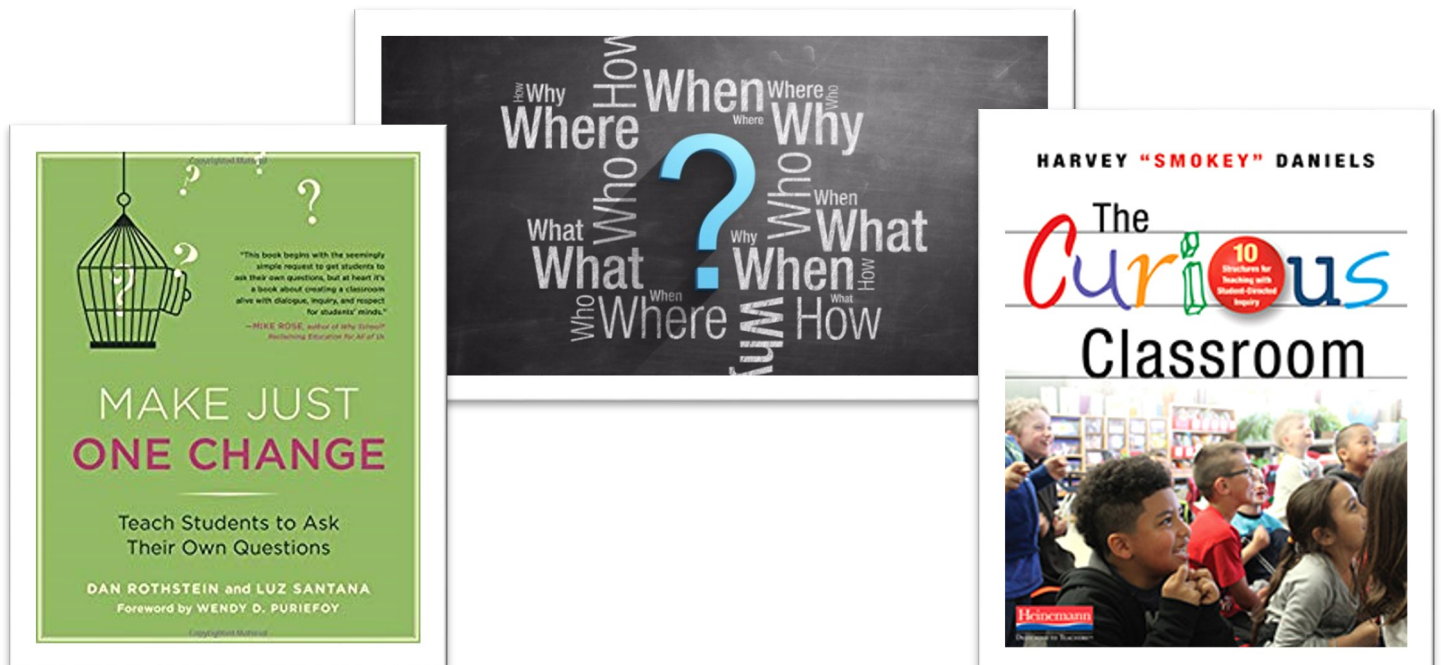


Make just two colour copies of this page and each child will have a colourful 'stamp' to glue on their writing page.

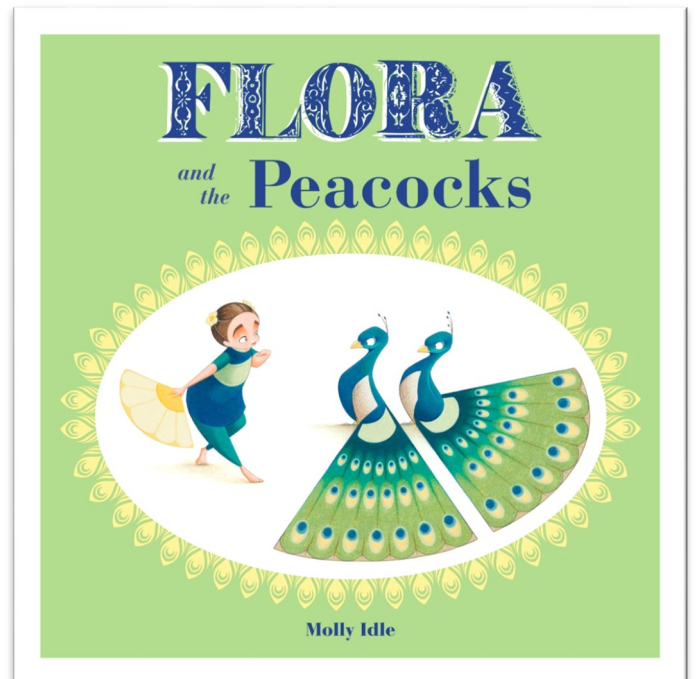
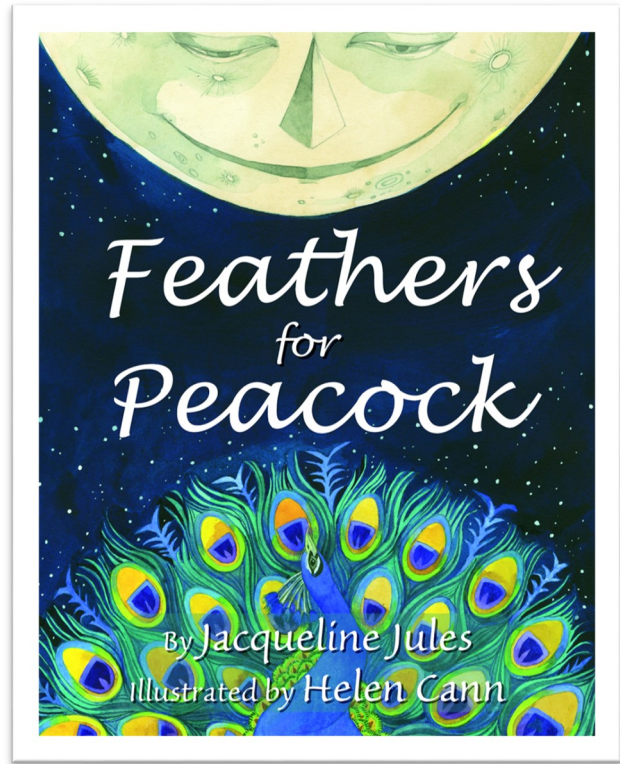
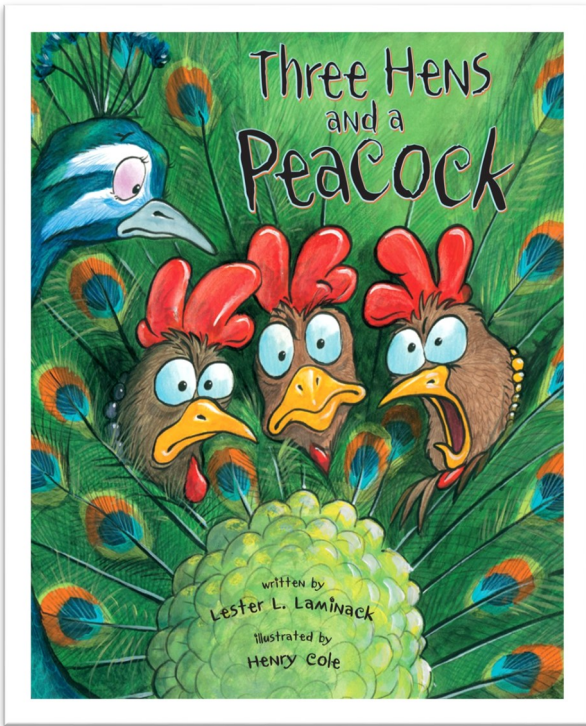


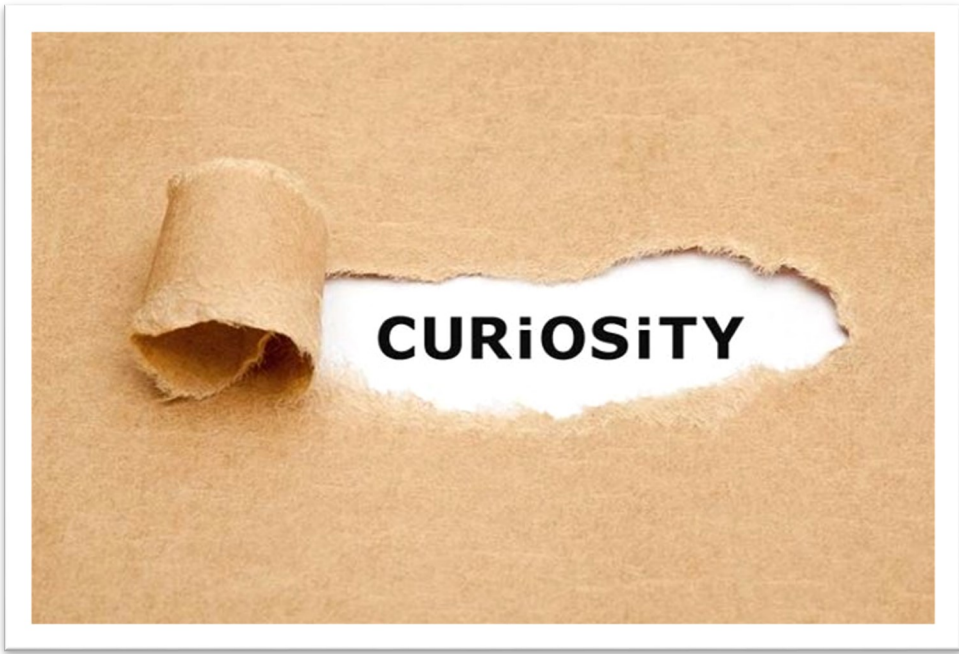
A mini-peacock inquiry may now be complete ..

Perhaps there are other birds or animals or ... Kids' are curious about ...



Perhaps it's time for a little fiction to go along with the nonfiction!





curiosity

learn something new



