



# How the Peacock Got Its Feathers®

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## Engage & Prep before reading:

- Show children the “before” picture of Joel on the inner page. Display a few real peacock feathers and tell children that they will be reading a fictional story about why peacocks have colorful feathers.

## Prior Learning Connection:

- Ask children if they ever experienced a change in their lives such as moving to a new home, going to a new school or having a new family member join their household or losing a pet. Ask them how the change made them feel.

## While reading:

- Pause at appropriate times to ask open-ended questions.  
For example:
  - Why do you think Courtney and Pratt play pranks on their neighbors?
  - How do you think Taylor felt when he was injured?
  - Why do you think Joel stopped to help Taylor?
  - What do you think the animals talked about at their forest meeting?
  - Why does Mama Bear appear angry for most of the story?
  - Why do you think the forest animals trust Quinn?
- Pause to answer/discuss any questions children would like to ask.

## After reading:

- Reflect on the story and lessons within it.
- Ask additional open-ended questions such as:
  - How do you think Courtney and Pratt felt by the end of the story?
  - How do you think Joel felt by the end of the story?
  - What do you think Mama Bear thought of Courtney and Pratt?
  - Do you think Courtney and Pratt’s behavior will change? Why do you think so?
  - Do you think what happened to Joel was a good thing or a bad thing?
  - Do you think Joel’s attitude/personality will change after his experience? Why do you think so?

(Future) Learning Connection\*:

- Introduce or review vocabulary terms (as age-appropriate):
  - Apologize
  - Explore
  - Gaze
  - Glistened
  - Rickety
  - Lamented
  - Bully
  - Victim
  - Bystander
  - Perseverance
  - Transformation
  - Self-esteem
  - Self-confidence
- Ask follow-up questions:
  - What did you learn from the story?
  - What do you think you would do if you were faced with a situation like Taylor, Joel or Baby Bear?
  - How would you help someone like Taylor?
  - How would you help individuals like Courtney and Pratt?
  - What would you have done if you were aware that Courtney and Pratt's behavior were harming others?

\*May include Character Education pie sheet