

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Read the passage. Then answer each question.

HUMMING BIRDS

The most beautiful humming birds are found in the West Indies and South America. The crest of the tiny head of one of these shines like a sparkling crown of colored light. The shades of color that adorn its breast are equally brilliant. As the bird flits from one object to another, it looks more like a bright flash of sunlight than it does like a living being.

But, you ask, why are they called humming birds? It is because they make a soft, humming noise by the rapid motion of their wings—a motion so rapid, that as they fly, you can hardly see that they have wings.

One day when walking in the woods, I found the nest of one of the smallest humming birds. It was about half the size of a very small hen's egg, and it was attached to a twig no thicker than a steel knitting needle. It seemed to have been made of cotton fibers and was covered with the softest bits of leaf and bark. It had two eggs in it, and each was about as large as a small sugarplum.

When you approach the spot where one of these birds has built its nest, it is necessary to be careful. The mother bird will dart at you and try to peck your eyes. Its sharp beak may hurt your eyes most severely, and even destroy your sight. The poor little thing knows no other way of defending its young, and instinct teaches it that you might carry off its nest if you find it.

1. Why does the author say the hummingbird looks like a “bright flash of sunlight?”
2. Why do you think it is hard to find a hummingbird’s nest?
3. What might happen if you try to take the nest of a hummingbird?
4. How do you think the author feels about hummingbirds?