

# The Best Nest

By Doris L. Mueller

Illustrated by Sherry Neidigh

32-Page Hardcover, \$16.95, ISBN: 978-1-934359-09-9

32-Page Paperback, \$8.95, ISBN: 978-1-934359-25-9

English & Spanish eBooks, \$11.95

For Children Ages 4-8

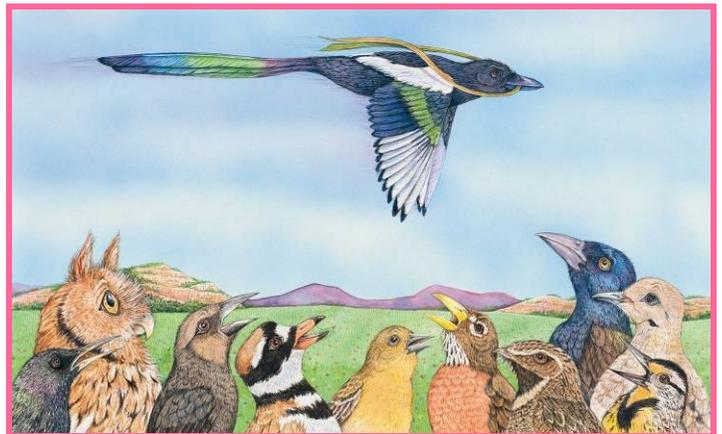
“It is obvious that author Doris L. Mueller has put great thought into the building of her story, and young readers will eagerly follow along with Maggie as she takes time to teach her sometimes-impatient bird pupils.”- *Art of Creativity*

“What a fun way to learn about this part of nature that many of us never even think about. I mean - when was the last time you thought about how a Robin builds her nest compared to how a Grackle builds hers?” - *Family Briefs*

“This is a clever story. It will remind you of reading a fable or folktale, but it is full of specific detail about how various species of birds build their nest. This picture book offers information about birds wrapped in a fictional tale. The illustrations are finely detailed, and there is a matching game at the end that offers additional information to expand the learning.” - *The Reading Tub*

## “Won’t you please teach us?”

Long ago, the magpies’ nests were the envy of all other birds. To help the other birds, Maggie Magpie patiently explained how to build a nest. But some birds were impatient and flew off without listening to all the directions, which is why, to this day, birds’ nests come in all different shapes and sizes. This clever retelling of an old English folktale teaches the importance of careful listening.



Thanks to Anne Hobbs, Dr. Miyoko Chu, and Katherine Smith of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology for verifying the accuracy of the information in this book. **The “For Creative Minds” educational section includes:**

- Bird Math
- Is it Injured?
- A “Match the Nest” Activity with nest information for: Magpie, Killdeer, Robin, Screech-owl, Starling, Brewer’s Blackbird, Common Grackle, Meadowlark, Whip-poor-will, Mourning Dove, Northern Oriole

Arbordale Publishing’s Web site helps parents and educators expand the learning possibilities with free **Audiobooks, Comprehension Quizzes and Learning Links**. Also find free cross-curricular **Teaching Activities** and engage children in Language Arts, Math, Science, Geography and Character.



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## About the Author and Illustrator

**Doris L. Mueller** (pronounced Miller) has been a teacher and professor at every level from kindergarten through graduate school. She currently teaches college-level writing courses and a class in Children's Literature. Her previous books include a picture book, *Small One's Adventure*, a middle-grade novel, *Marryin' Sam*, and a biography, *M. Jeff Thompson: Missouri's Swamp Fox*. Doris recalls that whenever she failed to listed to instructions, her mother would tell her an Old English Tale of how, when the magpie tried to teach the birds how to build a beautiful, strong nest like hers, all but one failed to attend to her instructions and went off to build inadequate nests. She retold the story, substituting birds native to the US, and added factual information telling how various birds build their nests. Doris and her husband live on a small lake outside of St. Louis and have many bird visitors at their bird feeders—woodpeckers, humming birds, nuthatches, and goldfinches, among others. Their own children are grown and have flown the nest.



**Sherry Neidigh**, a graduate of Ringling School of Art and Design, has been freelance illustrating for more than twelve years. Sherry's love of animals and nature comes through in her bright, colorful art. In addition to illustrating *The Best Nest* for Arbordale, Sherry has illustrated several trade and education titles including *Who Needs That Nose?* and *If I Had a Tail*. Learn more at her Web site: [www.sherryneidigh.com](http://www.sherryneidigh.com).



## Contact Information

For additional information about *The Best Nest* and other Arbordale books, please our sales team at 877-243-3457 or [Orders@ArbordalePublishing.com](mailto:Orders@ArbordalePublishing.com).

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### Arbordale Publishing

612 Johnnie Dodds Blvd., Suite A2  
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464  
877-958-2600 (toll-free)  
843-216-3804 (fax)  
[www.ArbordalePublishing.com](http://www.ArbordalePublishing.com)

