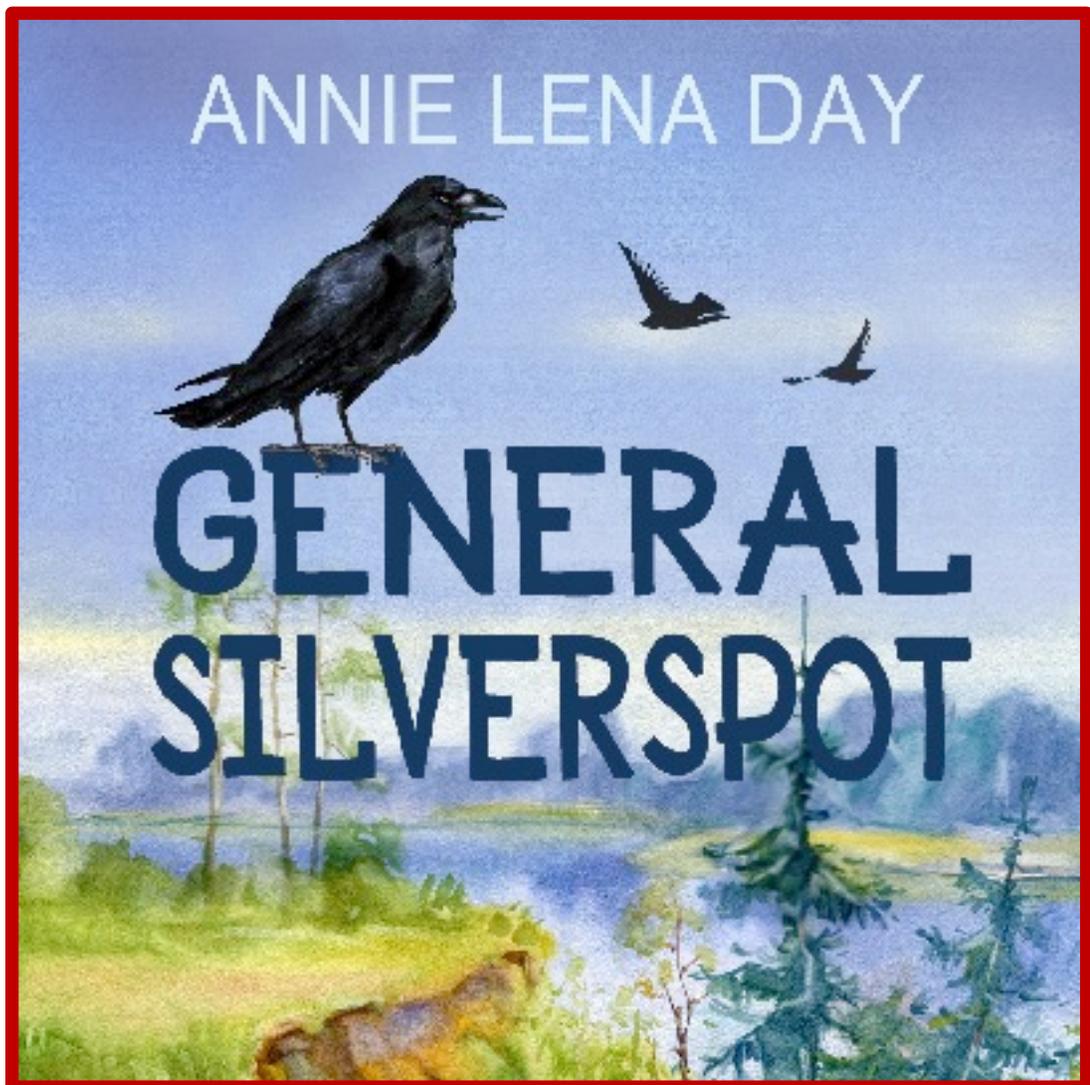


TEACHING GUIDE
with
Printable Activities



www.AnnieLenaDay.com

Guide for Teachers and Parents

Print the vocabulary page for each child. You can find it right in this packet, labeled Vocabulary. Before reading the story, read the sample sentences on this page to the class as you go through the vocabulary together. The sentences give context clues to help the children figure out new words. Some of the sentences are from the story but not all.

1. Scatter (A)

When marbles roll on the ground, they scatter in all around.

2. Subtle (A)

The difference between all the crows' cawing sounds is very subtle, but it's there.

Discuss the different bird sounds and explain that cawing is the word used to describe the sound that crows make. Many people do not like the cawing sound but they like other bird sounds like tweets, chirps, and an owl's hoot.

3. Confidently (B)

All the crows felt brave when they were close to each other, so they flew home safely and confidently.

4. Rustling sounds (A)

The boy stepped over the leaves carefully so there were no rustling sounds!

5. Abandoned (B)

They thought the house might have been used years ago but now it was run down and abandoned.

6. Bobtails (A)

The young crows arrived with bobtails, soft wings, and high voices

7. Lieutenant (A)

The general and his lieutenants began to teach the young crows.

8. Drills (B)

The birds practiced their drills, and they learned to sit in a straight line.

Talk about other kinds of drills that are practice... for example math drills and military drills. Mention that another kind of drill is a tool, like a hammer, but that's not the kind of drill we'll talk about in this story.

9. Sentry (B)

The sentry was expected to watch and warn the other birds of danger.

Explain that choice b (100 years) was a tricky one because the word century is very close to sentry and those two words can be confusing for kids. Write the word century on the board so they can see the different spelling, as well as hear the difference.

10. Forage (B)

As they foraged through the forest, they found lots of berries to eat.

12 Captivity (A)

All the birds in captivity had lots of food put in their cages every day.

13. Unique (A)

The most unique stones are made into jewelry that is very expensive.

14. Dwindle (B)

Without their general, the number of crows in the flock began to dwindle.

15. Routines (A)

Brushing your teeth is a part of your bedtime routine.



For Kids who want to Learn More

1. To see the picture that Ernest Thompson Seton drew of Silverspot, follow this link

<https://tinyurl.com/generalsilverspot>

2. Here is a link to another picture Ernest Thompson Seton drew in his journal. It shows Silverspot looking at his treasures.

<https://tinyurl.com/Silverspots-treasure>

3. If your child would like to find out how to be a citizen scientist, here's a link

<http://pbskids.org/scigirls/citizen-science>

Name _____

VOCABULARY WORDS

Here are some words from the story, *General Silverspot*. Circle the letter that you think gives the correct meaning. Your teacher will give you some hints.

1. Scatter
 - a. To move in many different directions
 - b. Cats running around

2. Subtle
 - a. Difficult to see or hear
 - b. A train under the ground

3. Confidently
 - a. Feeling confused
 - b. Feeling sure about something

4. Rustling sounds
 - a. Sound made by a quiet movement
 - b. A bang sound

5. Abandoned
 - a. Surrounded
 - b. Left alone

6. Bobtails
 - a. A very short tail
 - b. Bouncing up and down

7. Lieutenant
 - a. Someone who helps the general
 - b. A cook in the army

8. Drills

- a. Practicing something over and over again
- b. A hammer

9. Sentry

- a. 100 years
- b. A guard

10. Forage

- a. Flying high in the sky
- b. Looking for something to eat

11. Captivity

- a. Locked up
- b. Keeping busy

12. Unique

- a. Unusual or different in some way
- b. The same as everything else

13. Dwindle

- a. Numbers are going up
- b. Numbers are going down

14. Routine

- a. Something that is done over and over again, often at the same time
- b. Something that is a treat

General Silverspot

Here are the vocabulary words from the story.
Can you find them in the word puzzle?

scatter	bobtails	captivity	abandoned
subtle	Lieutenant	unique	forage
confidently	drills	dwindle	
rustling	sentry	routine	

p s f o r a g e d r i l l s o
u n i q u e w s u b t l e u n
v h d w i n d l e l v p r p u
v l i e u t e n a n t n u r u
i b o b t a i l s c a t t e r
o x r u s t l i n g j l w k n
i z o k r i q k d i h l b f u
p o t j x w e o u a a u p w d
b e o z b p u t f l f y p n x
s k y i f g w i m d z z b e p
q b r w s e n t r y h f p g y
j f l p c a p t i v i t y e v
e v i y a b a n d o n e d r n
c r o u t i n e u e k s z n r
c o n f i d e n t l y z p m a

Learn About Other Animals from the Story, *General Silverspot*

Kingbird



Some people say the kingbird looks like he's wearing a business suit. The kingbird has a white tip on its tail and its belly is all white, like a shirt.

Hidden on the top of its head is a colorful crown of bright colors. This crown only shows when it's trying to scare away other birds. The kingbird also scares birds by opening its mouth really wide and then dive bombing down.

Kingbirds do not have bird calls that they learn (like crows do). They have only one sound they can make and they do not need to learn it. They just know it instinctively when they are about two weeks old.

Kingbirds eat insects. They pester crows and other birds who come near their home. In the winter, they go to South America where they can eat lots of fruit.



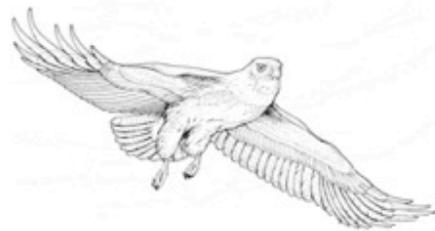
Hawks are some of the biggest birds in North America and there are many different hawks. The Sparrow Hawk is mentioned in the story.

Hawks make a sound that is like a scream and they have very long claws called talons. That's why some people think they are scary. Sometimes hawks are used in scary movies.

Hawks fly high in the air and they go around and around in circles. They also like to ride on the winds in the sky.

The oldest wild hawk lived to be 30 years and 8 months old.

Sparrow Hawk





Great Horned Owl

One of the most powerful birds, owls have yellow eyes that get very big at night so they can see in the dark. Their soft feathers keep them warm in the winter.

They can hear very well and that helps them to catch the animals they like to eat... including other birds, mice, frogs, and even spiders.

The hooting sound that owls make is one of the most famous bird sounds.

Purple Martin

Male purple martins are a dark, shiny blue color and the females are brown. They can eat insects while they are flying in the air. These birds are so much fun to watch that many people build houses for them to live in.

The oldest purple martin that we know about lived to be 13 years and 9 months old. We know this because people sometimes put bands or rings on the legs of birds. These bands have numbers on them so we can track where they go and how long they live.

