

## Comprehension and Critical Thinking Suggestions

How would you classify this book? Fact for Fiction? Justify your answer.

Use the questions as a fact hunt after reading the story.

Reading for details and facts about Least Terns (LAFS.5.L.1.2 Level 1 recall)

1. The least tern is the smallest of the terns. What is its size? 9 "
2. Why does the adult least tern remove the eggshell? To discourage predators who follow the scent
3. How do least terns survive in the hot sun? wet belly feathers and drip them on the chicks, shade them with their wings
4. How does the Great Blue Heron make swallowing a larger fish easier? Wets the fish
5. How do the least terns protect their nesting area from intruders? Dive bomb them, tell chicks to lie flat, squawks loudly
6. What is a colony? Nesting area of some seabirds
7. How is a dog on the beach a threat to the colony? Crush eggs, chase birds causing them to flush
8. What and where do least tern chicks find food? Shoreline (wrack), worms, coquinas, flies, and their parents bringing them fish.
9. How long before a least tern begins to fly? Three weeks
10. How can plastic like a balloon cause harm to a bird? Eating it. The plastic gets stuck in the belly, prevents them from pooping.
11. Where do least terns migrate? South America
12. What effect does oil have on birds? Covers feathers and are unable to fly
13. What causes a bad smell and greenish-brown water? Red tide
14. A rooftop can be another nesting place but why is it not ideal? No shade, too hot, black tar, chicks fall off roof
15. How does a least tern attract attention of the female? Takes her a fish, bobs his head, dances around her
16. How many eggs does a least tern lay? 2-3
17. How does the sandy beach help least tern eggs stay safe? Camouflaged from predators.
18. How do adult least terns discourage a Yellow-crowned Night-heron? Bomb him with poop
19. Why do the adults move the chicks after they hatch? Find a safer place, provides shade and cover
20. How do terns help a plover who has nested nearby? Terns chase away predators
21. What is on the menu for a least tern? Fish, crustaceans, insects, mollusks and marine worms
22. Why is it hard for least terns and other fishing seabirds to find food? Too many humans fishing
23. How old is a least tern when it is ready to find a mate? Two

24. How is a storm harmful to a nesting colony? High flood tides, wash in plastics and debris

**Other comprehension ideas:**

Compare and contrast nesting areas of Least Terns and Wilson's Plovers

**Vocabulary Activities:**

Find synonyms (Level 2 LAFS.K12.L.3.4)

Sort into three groups: Bird names, nouns (group singular and plural), verbs (group in tenses)  
(Level 2 LAFS.K12.2.3)

Identify root (base) of words

Find other words using the same root (base) (Level 2 LAFS.K12.L.2.3)

Define multiple meanings of \* words (Level 2 LAFS.5.L.3.4)

Use words in sentences

- Breeding
- Brooding \*
- Camouflage
- Colony \*
- Crustacean
- Debris
- Down feathers
- Fish crows
- Fledge
- Flushed \*
- Forage
- Ghost crab
- Hurricane
- Incubate
- Juvenile \*
- Magnificent frigatebird
- Migrate
- Plumage
- Predators
- Preening
- Red tide
- Snowy plover

- Wilson's plover
- Wrack line
- Yellow-crowned night-heron

Critical Thinking:

Research one of the problems least terns face in the book:

Loss of habitat, plastic pollution, water pollution, climate change, overfishing, predators attracted to food left by humans, fireworks, coastal recreation. Describe the problem in detail and suggest possible solutions. Write an opinion letter to the editor stating your ideas.