



Fern and the Starbird

A DecodiVerse Story

© 2026 Bramblepath Digital, LLC.



Fern and the Starbird

Reading Level: Grade 2

Words with vowel pairs like 'ea' in feather and 'ee' in tree, plus 'r' sounds in words like fern and her

Words to watch for: feather, stream, curled, birch, starbird

Before you start: Look at the cover — what do you notice about the feathers?



Fern found a feather on the forest floor. It shimmered with a faint silver glow, like a tiny fallen star.



She turned the feather over in her fingers. It pulsed with light — then floated out of her hand, drifting deeper into the trees.



Fern followed the floating feather. Near a mossy stream, she found a second feather perched on a smooth river stone. This one glowed green.



Each feather led to the next. A golden one near the thorny bushes. A bright blue one resting on a low birch branch.



The trail of feathers curved upward, spiraling around a tall oak tree. Fern climbed after them, her heart beating faster.

At the very top, nestled in a crown of curled leaves, sat the most perfect bird Fern had ever seen. Its feathers shimmered with every color.



The starbird tilted its head and blinked. It spread its wings — each feather a different bright hue. Then it chirped one short, clear note.



Fern held out her hand. The starbird hopped onto her warm palm and folded its wings. ‘I will keep your secret,’ Fern whispered. The bird blinked and stayed.

Reading Guide

For Parents & Teachers

HOW TO READ THIS TOGETHER

- Before reading, look at the title and illustrations together. Ask your child what they think the story will be about. After reading, talk about the story — what they liked, what surprised them, what they'd do differently.
- This story builds a mystery — where is the trail of feathers going? Ask your child to predict what Fern will find!

BEFORE READING

- Look at the cover — what do you notice about the feathers?
- If you found a glowing feather, what would you do?

DURING READING

- (Page 3) Fern found a second feather! Where do you think the trail is leading?
- (Page 5) Fern's heart is beating faster. What do you think she'll find at the top?
- (Page 7) The starbird spread its wings! What do you think it will do?

AFTER READING

- Why do you think the starbird left a trail of feathers for Fern?
- What do you think Fern's 'secret' is? Would you keep it too?

PHONICS FOCUS

Words with vowel pairs like 'ea' in feather and 'ee' in tree, plus 'r' sounds in words like fern and her

Practice words: feather, stream, curled, birch, starbird

FOR PARENTS

This story has words with vowel pairs — like 'ea' in feather and 'ee' in tree and deeper. It also has words where 'r' changes the vowel sound, like Fern, her, and birch. These two patterns are everywhere in English, and this story gives your child lots of practice with both.

Made with DecodiVerse

www.decodiverse.com

Built on the Science of Reading