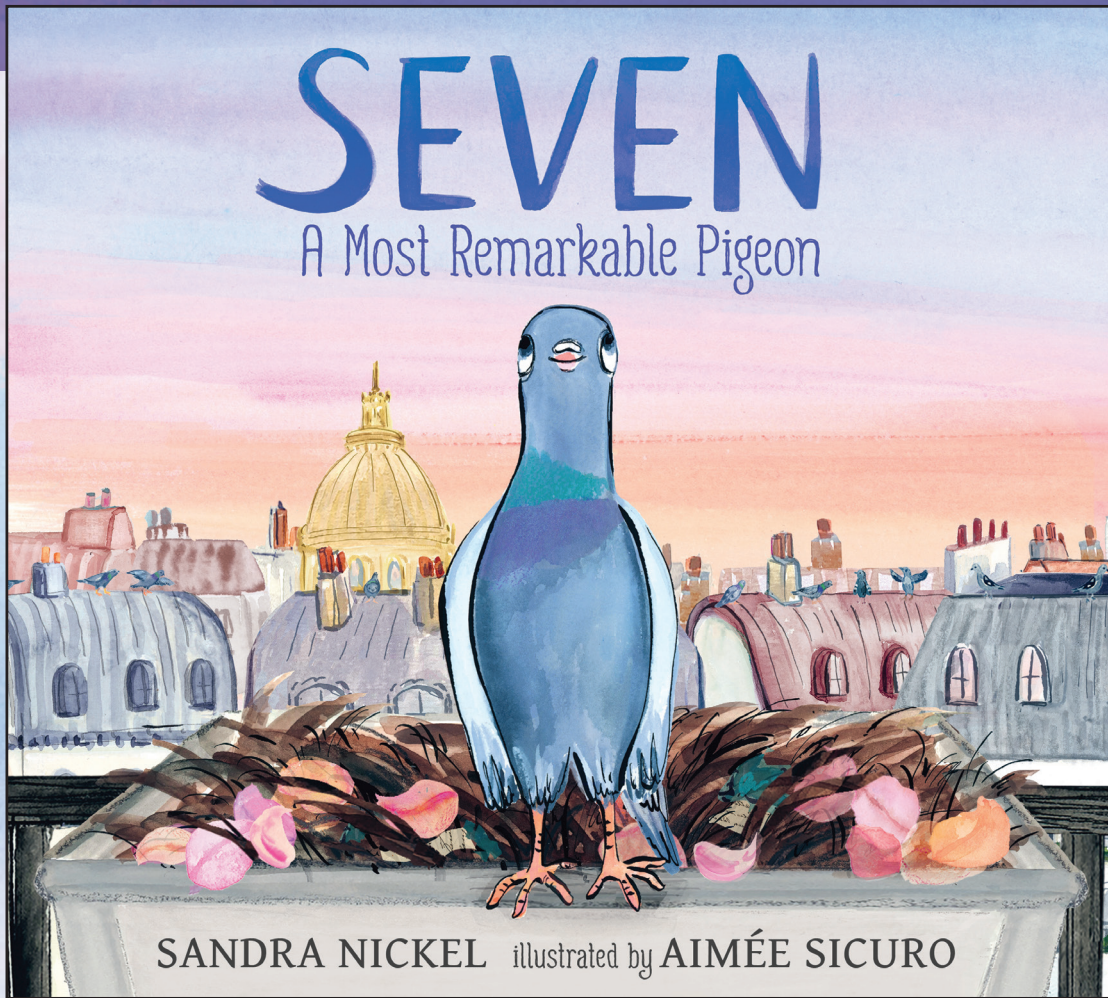


CLASSROOM GUIDE

9781536235197



**A young pigeon shows that the ways in which we are different
can also be the ways in which we become heroes.**

Seven is different from the minute he is born. While other pigeons arrive in twos, Seven arrives in the world by himself. He is also born with an extraordinary sense of smell. As the other pigeons build their nests with twigs, eat breadcrumbs, and fly in a straight line, Seven builds his nest with delightful smelling roses, eats fragrant rice, and flies here and there, always following his beak. The flock is disappointed in Seven. But when they all take a trip to the countryside and the fog rolls in, Seven's keen sense of smell might just be what leads them all back to safety.

Sandra Nickel's charming tale, paired with Aimée Sicuro's endearing illustrations, celebrates the different ways that folks of all feathers navigate the world.

"An uplifting tale that celebrates difference." —Kirkus Reviews

"[A] soaring celebration of individuality." —Booklist

sdranickel.com aimeesicuro.com candlewick.com

SEVEN: A MOST REMARKABLE PIGEON. Text © 2025 by Sandra Nickel. Illustrations © 2025 by Aimée Sicuro.
Used with permission from Candlewick Press. All rights reserved.



Discussion Questions

- Look carefully at the first illustration in the book of two pigeons on a rooftop looking into a nest with one egg. What feelings does this illustration stir in you?
- Why do you think the flock was concerned that there was only one egg in the nest?
- Why do the baby pigeon's parents name him Seven?
- In what ways does Seven behave differently than other members of his flock?
- How does Seven's mom react to her son's different behavior? Look at the illustration where Seven's mom hurries Seven to the park and the rest of the flock. Describe how Seven feels about his mom's reaction.
- Why do you think Seven keeps returning to the rice-covered street and gathering rose petals despite his mother's warning?
- What does Seven's dad do to help his son behave more like members of the flock?
- Describe the trip that Seven and his dad take. Does the trip go as Seven's dad hopes?
- How does Seven's behavior change after the trip with his dad?
- What is the Big Flight? What problems do the flock encounter on their journey home?
- How does Seven help to save the flock during the Big Flight?
- What words would you use to describe Seven's behavior during the Big Flight?
- How does the flock show Seven and his parents appreciation after they arrive safely home?
- What lesson do you think the flock and Seven's parents learn in this story?



The discussion questions, activities, and worksheets in this guide were created by Leigh Courtney, Ph.D. She teaches in the Global Education program at a public elementary school in San Diego, California. She holds both master's and doctoral degrees in education, with an emphasis on curriculum and instruction.

Activities for Students

HOMING JOURNEY

Seven's dad takes him on a trip to learn about homing. He encourages Seven to look down from the air and to take note of the roads and buildings. If you were to practice homing, what roads, buildings, and landmarks would you need to help guide you from school to home? Create a map from an aerial point of view that shows the path that you would take from your school to your home. Include labels and a key that identifies the important buildings and landmarks on your journey.

ALL ABOUT ME

Seven is a remarkable bird. His special qualities make him stand out in the flock of pigeons. What makes you remarkable and different from those around you? Design an All About Me poster that includes pictures and captions detailing your hobbies, interests, special talents, and information about your hopes and dreams. Share your All About Me poster with your classmates and then display the posters in your classroom.

EMOTION STUDY

Divide a piece of drawing paper into four sections. Label each section with an emotion that a character feels in the story (sad, lonely, happy, proud, etc.). Think of the parts of the story where each of these emotions occur. Write a sentence describing the scene of the story and draw a colorful illustration for each of the four emotions you include.

POV

Imagine being Seven. Write three journal or diary entries from Seven's point of view that describe three important events in the story.

SNIFFING MAP

Seven guides the flock home on the Big Flight by following his nose. Various scents help him navigate the journey. Download a fun sniffing map activity created by author Sandra Nickel at LitLinks: <https://www.patriciamnewman.com/?p=12706>



NAME: _____

Sense of Smell

Seven is a most remarkable pigeon in many ways. He is fascinated by wonderful smells. What scents do you like best? Fresh flowers? The ocean? Cookies baking? Make a list of ten of your favorite scents.



1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____



NAME: _____

Acrostic Poem

Brainstorm words and phrases that describe Seven or events in the story that show how he is unique and special. Each word or phrase should begin with the letters below that vertically spell SPECIAL.



S _____

P _____

E _____

C _____

I _____

A _____

L _____

NAME: _____

About Pigeons

Read the About Pigeons page at the end of *Seven: A Most Remarkable Pigeon*. Choose four interesting facts about pigeons. Write one fact in each box below. Create a colorful illustration to go with each fact.



1

2

3

4

NAME: _____

Pigeon Quiz



Author Sandra Nickel wrote *Seven, A Most Remarkable Pigeon* in a unique way. She first researched pigeons for over a year and then placed Seven and his fictional flock in a world that resembles that of real pigeons. Which of the details in the book do you think are fiction and which do you think are fact? Circle your choice.

1. Pigeons really talk. **Fact or Fiction**
2. Both mother and father pigeons raise their children. **Fact or Fiction**
3. Pigeon eggs almost always come into the world two at a time. **Fact or Fiction**
4. “Seven” is really a lucky name among pigeons. **Fact or Fiction**
5. Pigeons can really fly seven thousand miles in a single trip. **Fact or Fiction**
6. Pigeons usually make their nests out of rose petals. **Fact or Fiction**
7. It’s healthier for pigeons to eat breadcrumbs, rather than rice. **Fact or Fiction**
8. Pigeons can home—find their way home from wherever they are. **Fact or Fiction**
9. Pigeons usually live in flocks. **Fact or Fiction**
10. Pigeons can really smell their way home. **Fact or Fiction**

1. It's both fact and fiction. Pigeons can communicate amongst themselves, but they cannot speak English as they do in the story. 2. Fact. 3. Fact. 4. Fiction. 5. Fact. 6. Fiction. They usually make them out of straw, twigs, and other dry material. 7. Fiction. 8. Fact. 9. Fact. 10. Fact. Scientists have different theories about how pigeons home. Some do indeed believe that pigeons use their sense of smell to find their way home.

ANSWER KEY