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READING COMPREHENSION

Lead-in activity

Before reading *Small, Speckled Egg* help children identify the title, author, illustrator and blurb on the front and back covers. Study the front cover and ask:

- What animals can you identify?
- Why do you think these animals are on the front cover?
- What do you think the book will be about?

Main activity

The text has two levels. You can enjoy reading the main text out loud with younger children, and include the supporting text for more advanced learners. After reading, ask the following questions to check for understanding, promote deeper thinking and prompt further discussion.

The egg:

- What words can you use to describe the egg?
- How does the chick get out of the egg?
- Do you know any other animals that hatch from eggs?

Setting:

- Where in the world does the chick hatch?
- Is it a hot place or a cold place?
- Where do the terns go in the winter?
- What are other names for the Arctic and Antarctic?

The main character:

- What type of bird is the book's main character?
- What does she eat?
- How do her parents protect her?
- How does she learn to fly?

The plot:

- What predators do terns have in the Arctic?
- Why do the family leave their home in the Arctic every year?
- How do they eat on their journey?
- Where do they sleep when they are flying over the sea?
- How many chicks can a female tern have in her lifetime?

