

## **Introduction**

**The Great Egret Family on Ruby Lake** is a set of 12 stories, which describe the life cycle of a family of great egrets. Our stories are based on three years of observations at Shangri-La Botanical gardens in Orange and High Island, Texas, conversations with biologists, and research about authentic behaviors of wading birds. These nonfiction science stories are written for developing bilinguals in ASL and English who are 5 to 8 year old, but also include older struggling readers.

Each story consisting about 10 to 12 sentences and are illustrated by Jan Kellogg. Each story describes one facet of the great egret's life. The stories follow events as mating, nest building, feeding, hatching of chicks, flying, becoming fledglings, and leaving the nest. Each story stands alone but also forms a collective thematic whole. The story titles are as follows.

### **The Great Egret Family on Ruby Lake**

Story #1: Great Egret Looks For Fish in the Lake

Story #2: Great Egret Builds a Nest

Story #3 Great Egret Finds a Mate

Story #4: The Great Egrets Dance

Story #5: The Great Egrets Finish Building the Nest

Story #6: The Hungry Great Egrets

Story #7: Female Great Egret Lays Three Eggs

Story #8: Mother and Father Great Egret Feed Their Little Chicks

Story #9: Danger in the Lake

Story #10: Baby Chicks Grow Bigger and Bigger

Story #11: The Three Fledglings Go Fishing

Story #12: The Great Egrets Find a New Bayou

### **About the Authors**

The authors Jean F. Andrews, Ph.D. and Jana M. Mason, Ph.D. are children's writers, and former reading teachers and literacy researchers. Jan Kellogg is an experienced children's illustrator. The ASL and English Bilingual Literacy Lessons are written by Jean F. Andrews, Ph.D. and the speech and listening skills lessons are written by speech-language-pathologist Monica Harn, Ph.D. and audiologist Ashley Dockens, Ph.D., AuD.

Contact:

Jean F. Andrews, [jean.andrews@lamar.edu](mailto:jean.andrews@lamar.edu)