

# "STELLALUNA"

By *Janell Cannon*

Watch online video of actor *Pamela Reed* reading this story at [www.storylineonline.net](http://www.storylineonline.net)

When Stellaluna is separated from her mother before she is old enough to fly, she finds out that not all winged creatures eat fruit. Swallowing food that crawls is just one of the many amazing things this little fruit bat must learn to do. As Stellaluna adapts to the habits of her new family, she learns the essence of friendship in humorous and touching ways.



## RELATED ACTIVITIES

- Retell this story in your own words.
- Discuss and then tell or write about what you enjoyed most about this book.
- Tell and then write about what you would have done if you had been the baby bat separated from your mother.
- Look very carefully at the front cover of the book *Stellaluna*. Does this illustration match with what you think and know about bats? Discuss this with someone.
- Look very carefully at the back cover of the book *Stellaluna*. What type of animal do you think this is and why? Discuss this with someone.
- Make a word web about bats. If you have never done this it's easy to do. Take a sheet of paper and draw a circle about 2 inches in diameter in the center of the paper. Write the word "bats" in the circle. Now, draw 6 or 7 lines out from the edge of the circle so that they coming out all around the circle. On each line write something you know about bats. If you

need more lines, draw more. Discuss this with someone.

- Discuss and then tell or write about any friends that you've had that are different from you in some way. Tell ways these differences have caused problems? How did you solve these problems?
- Discuss and then tell or write about the friendship between Stellaluna and the birds. Will this friendship last? What might get in the way of them continuing the friendship?
- Discuss and then tell or write about what might have happened to Stellaluna and the birds if Stellaluna had not found her mother. Do you think that Stellaluna would have tried to continue behaving like a bird? Why or why not? Would the birds have tried to behave like bats? Would Stellaluna have returned to her bat ways as she got older?
- Discuss and then tell or write about how you feel about owls. What is the owl's role and image in the book *Stellaluna*?
- How have your feelings about bats changed since reading the book *Stellaluna*?

# INTERNET ACTIVITIES

- Make a learning log to keep track of information about bats you find on line.

Explore these informative websites to increase your knowledge about bats:

<http://members.aol.com/bats4kids>  
<http://www.cmzoo.org/bats.html>  
<http://www.wiltonlibrary.org/kids/school/bats.htm>  
<http://www.picadome.fcps.net/lab/curri/bats/default.htm>  
<http://www.homeschoolzone.com/science/bats.htm>

Fast facts about bats:

- Write 3 questions of your own about bats. Go to the following website and ask one question at a time to receive help in searching for the answer to your questions.

<http://www.seaworld.org/animal-info/animal-bytes/>

- Compare and contrast the anatomy of a bat wing, a bird wing and a human arm. Make a list of the common parts. These websites will help you:

[http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia\\_761557637/Bat.html](http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761557637/Bat.html)  
<http://www.infovisual.info>  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bats>

- Make a list of "Ways the Bodies of Bats, Birds and Humans Are the Same" and a list of "Ways the Bodies of Bats, Birds and Humans Are Different". Discuss what you found out with someone.

- Investigate how you can assist bats at Adopt-a bat

<http://www.batcon.org/home/default.asp>

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## **MORE BOOKS ABOUT BATS:**

"Bat Jamboree" by Kathi Appelt  
"Shadows of Night" by Barbara Bash  
"The Great Ball Game" by Joseph Bruchac  
"The Bat in the Boot" by Annie Cannon  
"Bats: Swift Shadows in the Twilight" by Ann C. Cooper  
"Zipping, Zapping, Zooming Bats Let's-Read-And-Find-Out Science" by Ann Earle  
"Iktomi and the Boulder" by Paul Goble  
"Amazing Bats - Eyewitness Juniors" by Frank Greenaway  
"Batty Riddles" by Katy Hall  
"Bats" by Sylvia Johnson  
"Scholastic's the Magic School Bus Going Batty: A Book About Bats" by Nancy Krulik  
"Bats, Night Fliers" by Betsy Maestro  
"A Promise to the Sun" by Tololwa Mollel  
"Discovering Bats" by Jane Mulleneux  
"Batman: Exploring the World of Bats" by Laurence Pringle

## MORE ACTIVITIES

- **Imitation Game:** In the book *Stellaluna* one species of animal is asked to imitate another. Work on imitating an animal (actions and sounds). If you are in a classroom, demonstrate your imitations for each other and have the other students identify the animal you are imitating.
- Discuss and then tell or write about any experiences you have had with bats.
- Think about the fact that all bats have come to be feared based on mostly erroneous stories about the vampire bat, of which there are only 3 species out of nearly 800 varieties of bats. Discuss the notion of stereotyping with someone

and how the seemingly bad actions of a few can lead to labels for a whole group. Talk about how remembering this when you hear negative things about any group can help you.

- Go back through the book *Stellaluna* paying particular attention to the two types of illustrations on each spread of pages. Notice that the tiny pencil drawings above the text tell the story from the point of view of *Stellaluna's* mother. Discuss with someone how this adds to the story. Now, you illustrate the story from the point of view of Pip, Flutter or Flap.
- Find out where bats live throughout the world. Take a map of the world and make little bats where they can be found.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

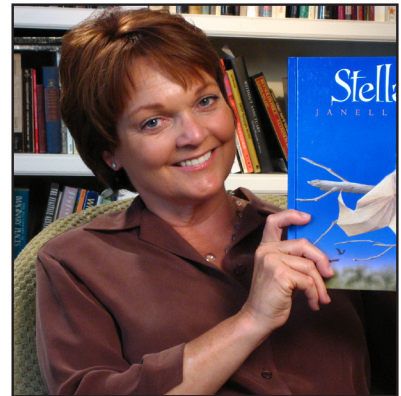
**JANELL CANNON** has worked for many years in the public library system designing award-winning summer reading programs for children. Her programs emphasize information about and involvement with animals, especially those not thought of as cute and cuddly, to dispel erroneous myths. This is one of the reasons she chose bats as the subject of her first children's book. She lives in southern California with her two cats and parrot.

### OTHER BOOKS BY JANELL CANNON:

- "Verdi"
- "Trupp: A Fuzzhead Tale"
- "Little Yau: A Fuzzhead Tale"
- "Crickwing"
- "Pinduli"
- "Alatorcida"

## ABOUT THE READER

Talented, versatile **PAMELA REED** was born in Tacoma, Washington, and grew up in Maryland. An acclaimed presence in television, film and



theatre, Pamela is known as much for her dramatic skill as her comic timing. She has entertained audiences in such films as *Kindergarten Cop*, *Junior*, *The Right Stuff*, *Cadillac Man*, *Bean*, and *Santa Fe* and in such television series as *Jericho*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *United States of Tara* and *Parks and Recreation*. Among many accolades, Pamela Reed has received a Cable Ace Award, Drama Desk Award and an Obie award for "sustained excellence in performance in theater."

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