





# **HUNGRY WOODPECKERS**

After the feast, all the birds returned to their homes. The sun was descending on the horizon and was very close to the vanishing line. The sun became a huge red ball. When the woodnotes were added to the smell of the daisies, The Island of Birds started to hear the flapping of the night. In all of the nests, families had dinner and now it was time to sleep. Weird noises came from the depths of the tree where parrots with shiny blue feathers live. Father bird, who went to see what is happening, came back to the nest soon.

- The children of the woodpeckers living downstairs are hungry. They are waiting for their parents. It is late and their mother has not came back home. Children are hungry, what shall we do?
- Let's take them our leftovers, their parents will probably come until morning.

That night, the children woodpeckers who ate their fill with the food their neighbours brought, noticed that they were still alone when they woke up in the morning. They started tweeting from the tree hole they were living. Neighbours who heard the nestlings cry because of the hunger came for help. This time red-yellow-green colored parrot neighbours brought them food. The neighbours decided to meet and try to find a solution for this problem. Then, they informed the authorities of Government of Birds of the situation. Little birds were very surprised when they came to take them to the Nestling Nursery. They asked for their parents, but when they learned that no one knew about their parents, they tagged after sadly and desperately. When they came to the nursery, they met nestlings of all kinds of birds. Teachers were also from different kinds of birds. The head of the nest was a chubby pigeon. Chubby Mistress stroke the heads of the little woodpeckers with her wing.

- You will love our nest. We have never had woodpecker nestlings before. You will add spice to our nest. Though we do not have other woodpeckers in our nest, birds of different kinds will be friends with you. Your teachers will teach you lots of things. You will play with your friends. And when you grow up, you will fly from our nest and will continue your life. After that day, little woodpeckers started their new lives. They played games with their warmhearted friends, shared the first years of their lives with their warmhearted teachers. They learned a lot. Days and years passed. Nestlings who grew up were leaving the nest. Before they leave the nest, each of them acquired a profession with the education they had in the direction of their abilities. Woodpeckers chose woodwork. They did good jobs with their beaks. Two seagulls who came to the nursery on the same day with them became doctors. Seagull brothers' biggest wish was to work in the Hospital of Wounded and Sick Birds. When they were asked if they wanted to work in the Children's Hospital, they accepted with heart and soul. Working in the Children's Hospital in the Island of Birds has been their dreams for a long time. After that day, two seagull brothers worked very hard to make sick nestlings well again. Two white female pigeons who left the nursery with them have become nurses. They worked in the children's hospital as well. They rehabilitated wounded and sick nestlings by working so hard. Their greatest source of joy was to see convalescent nestlings to fly into life.

Unfortunate nestlings need a warm nest, to be protected and to be educated. Woodpeckers got that chance. But what matters is that all the nestlings should get this chance.

### WALNUTS THROWN ON THE CANARY'S HEAD

- No. You will not go to school anymore and you will marry Black Crow! This is my last word, father of the little white pigeon said.
- But I am so young. I want to go to school. I want to have friends. I want to learn to read and write, to be a teacher. Then I would help you as well. Don't you want your daughter to be happy daddy, she said. Please let me study, begged little white pigeon.
- I sold you to him, said her father.

While little pigeon flew to her nest sobbing and she cried leaning her head on the bushes. Sparrows watching this scene at the cinema were talking among themselves.

- No way, said one of them. How can you sell your child? Children are not wheat kernels to be sold!
- To be a parent does not give the right to sell your child, said another one. Body of the child belongs to the child.

Children were having fun in the playground. Ducklings, little geese, swans were swimming in the lake. With the coming of spring, various kinds of nestlings were swinging on the ivy branches on the bloomy trees. A little dove sliding from the branches of the trees lost his balance and tumbled down, in the last minute he managed to fly without falling down.

This ability entertained him, he burst into laughter. Little canary was enjoying herself in the swing singing the new song she learned at school. While she was flapping her wings lightly, she was humming a song she learned recently.

- How happy they are when they can show their abilities, said a mother.
- Ah, yes, said another mother. I wish there were other schools where our children can develop these abilities.
- I will definitely bring up this matter in the Council of Birds tomorrow, said another mother.

The nestling who heard the mothers' talking saw how they protect the lives of their children and was happy. At that moment, their father came to the park. Seeing their children's happiness, fathers listened what mothers were saying carefully and they decided to make an effort to open ability schools for their children.

At that moment, one of the little canaries fell down because of a huge rock fallen on her head. A seagull came to help the half conscious little canary lying on the ground. Seen the incident other birds came as well, they were curious about what happened. Just then they heard another nestling falling down.

# Seagull said:

- I am a doctor, let me see.

A little nightingale was lying on the ground. At that moment, they heard a laughter coming from above. When they looked up, they saw crows having fun throwing walnuts to each other. Again, a huge walnut hit on a little sparrow. They were randomly throwing walnuts around.

- Irresponsible birds like them should not be given walnuts said a dove. They use everything take to birds' disadvantage. We primarily need to provide security for our children. Walnuts shall be banned!

# Seagull said:

- We need to take the wounded to the hospital. We shall report the crow to the police.

The families of the nestlings heard about what happened and rushed to the hospital.

Mother nightingale begged:

- What happened? What hit my child's head? Tell me, I am dying to know.
- Walnuts that the crows were throwing hit your child's head.
- How is my child doctor? Will he be okay?
- Don't worry, I have made the first treatment. He will be just fine tomorrow.

The other day, friends of the little canary and nightingale bombarded them with their questions.

- What happened? Did you have a fight?
- Shame on you, what were you fighting on that you hurt each other?

Little nightingale:

- What fight, we were swinging in the park nicely. A huge crow used us for fun. He hurt us with the walnuts he was throwing.
- You were lucky, said a friend of them.
- But we shouldn't leave it to chance any more, said their teacher. 4

# IF THE NAUGHTY BAT SKIPS SCHOOL

The bat family was worried. Father bat stopped by the school and got very unpleasant news.

- Your son and daughter did not come to school today. They are probably sick. Plagues are all around these days. The voice of the teacher wishing them to get better was in his mind.
- No, they are not sick. They left home for school after breakfast tonight, he said very surprised and stumbling.

Only then he was very worried. When he came home he told about the situation to his wife and they started to think together. "Where could have they gone? They were very good students though. How could they do such a thing?"

- As they did not go to school maybe something bad happened?
- Yes. For some reason, there were other children that did not go to the school. Let's talk to their families and learn what is happening.

Father bat who got the list of children who did not go to school and talked to their families. They were worried as well. By midnight, their daughter came home looking very tired and exhausted.

- Mom dad do not ask us what happened to us today?
- You did not go to school either, where have you been? Where is your brother? Tell me now!

- We met our friends while we were going to school. We were just very close to the school that a bat asked us where we were going. We told him that we were going to school. He gave us candies. Candies were so good that we scrambled for them, ate them all. Then we felt dizzy. We settled on a tree there. When we woke up there was someone else with us. His eyes, behaviors were very weird. But when he asked if we want more candy, we forgot everything and told him we want candies. Then he took us to the shop where the weird candies were made. There were sacks of candies. He told he would give us free candies if we made other children taste these. He gave everyone a bag. While everyone got their bags and were leaving, I hit my head on the wall of the cave because I was feeling dizzy. I fell down and fainted. When I woke up, I left the bag and went from the cave and came directly home.

Parents were too shocked to say a word when they heard what their daughter told.

- Daddy you are so right. You have always been telling us not to take anything from the strangers. I guess this stranger bat guy gave us some kind of drug. And I think they will use my brother and our friends to distribute this. Please save them father!

# Father bat:

- I am going to school and tell everyone about the situation. Where is the shop, do you remember where it is?
- Yes, I remember. But they must have left there already.
- It doesn't matter. Apparently they are using there as a storage. They cannot have emptied all of the stuff. Everything will be clear after a bust. Some of the nestlings went back to school. They were talking among themselves in a corner. Headmaster asked them to come to his room. Children were very scared. They did not want to talk first. But when they learned they will be helped and smugglers will be arrested, they told everything. With the bust to the storage, a large quantity of drugs was captured. And the smugglers were captured and imprisoned.
- All birds are obliged to protect their nestlings a from bad habits and from the ones who make them addicted and take precautions, said the judge and congratulated the goshawk police who brought the bad bats.

#### **BANNERS OF THE CHILDREN**

- Good morning neighbour. Have you heard about the nestlings in the lake are claiming their right of freedom?

- How come, what are they doing?
- They are making a show. Let's go and see what is happening.

Mother parrots with bright blue feathers, black crows, and white pigeons flied to the lakeshore. Hearing the news, other birds came to the lakeshore as well. On the still water of the lake, little ducks, curlews, seagulls, swans and goslings were floating and peeping with a leaf under their wings. While penguins, flamingoes, cormorants, kingfishers, egret were flying backwards and forwards, their nestlings were peeping with a leaf under their wings and flapping their other wing. Blue parrot went up to them.

- What's up kids, what are you doing?
- We are making a show as you see.
- I can see but what is the reason of this show?
- We nestlings also have the right to tell our opinion on matters. And we are using this right.
- Well, would you tell us your opinions?
- We are the children of this lake. We were born and grown up here. Our dreams were built here. And we will continue our lives here when we grow up as well. We do not have any other lake to go. We have to keep it clean. But the raising pollution will make our lake uninhabitable.
- On the other hand we do not want war. In the war games of children, children do not die. But in the war games of the adults, children die all the time. However, we want to live. Adults can talk among themselves and find solutions to the problems. Otherwise it will be us who suffer. So, because of this, we warn the adults. We are speaking out our opinions freely based on our rights.

Adult birds who were listening to this speech nodded their heads. Some of them grumbled, as they were asking who should say why are children into this. But then adults who are smart and love children started to talk among themselves.

- Children are right.
- Yes, they are right.
- As a matter of fact, I am ashamed of myself.

- Look how serious they are.
- I hope this warning will take us to the right path.

A little egret who saw the adult birds talking approached to them:

- We will gather here again towards evening. Speakers we chose among us will talk about the negatives sides of war and the consequences of environmental pollution. Please come to listen to us.

Having heard this speech, adult birds flied away with downcast eyes in order to join the meeting that evening.

# **ISLAND OF BIRDS**

Once upon a time,

In the old times

There was an island where birds were living

Where vultures nest

On the branches of grand trees

Where a thousand kinds of birds tweet

Where ducks and swans float on its lakes

In the middle of a turquoise ocean.

Birds living on this island were living happily by deciding the living conditions among themselves.

With the coming of spring, all the nests were rebuilt and all the birds started to get ready for the festival. If spring is not greeted with spectacles, summer would pass barren and winter fierce. It is again springtime in our island. Let us read what happened.

Mother parrot with a yellow beak and bright blue feathers set about saying:

- Come my nestlings, now that you have learned to fly, you two help me and let us clean in front of our nest.

Parrot family with red, green and yellow feathers that nest on the opposite branch woke up very early in the morning and had cleaned their nest already. They left in order to join the rehearsal for the festival. In the spring festivals birds made shows in which they display their abilities. Parrot family with blue feathers flied to the lakeside to join the show after clearing up their nest. Rehearsals had begun. The birds that will make a show in the sky started first.

Eagles and vultures were flying and forming different shapes and rolling over each other. Then, storks joined the show flying from above and below. In the show of the swallows, swallows formed a star in the sky attaching their wings together. Then the peacocks tinkled. A pure white peacock came swinging. The riot of colors in the tails of peacocks was glamorous. Parrots came after the show of peacocks. All kinds of parrots made a folk dance. Thus, each kind of bird participated in the show. The show of the swans and ducks in the lake was also beautiful. Then, everyone looked at the sea. Seagulls, blackbirds, shearwaters made such a nice show that it was worth to see. The excitement rose as the festival day was closer. Mother parrot with bright blue feather met demoiselle while she was going back home very tired. Demoiselle was very sad.

- What's up brother? Is everything okay?
- One of my sons broke his leg. He won't be able to participate in the festival.
- Come on, it is the right of every child to participate in this festival.
- But I can't do anything alone. And you know our father is not around since last week.
- Don't worry, we can find a solution..

When the festival day came, everyone came to the square which has lake on one side and sea on the other side. Soon, disabled children were brought to the front row on the banana leaves by two birds. Then the ceremony began with the participation of all kinds of birds on the island. In the end of the ceremony birds started to tweet and dance. Each bird was tweeting in a different language but the melody was the same. The melodies filling the sky were like the a nice mixture of the sounds coming from various instruments in an orchestra. All birds who participated in the show or just watched were blissing.

Now they had faith in nice, productive and merry days to come after the fun they had. When they were heading home after the festival, they were relieved.

### LITTLE GOOSE WHO PREVENTED WAR

Egrets, geese, swans, ducks and other birds were claiming that the paradise lake belonged to them. From time to time they were quarreling among themselves but soon everywhere would be quiet again. But this quietness did not last long either. One morning, geese and ducks cooperated and declared war against swans and egrets. Moreover, they gave guns to the nestlings and send them to the war. Swans and egrets hid their nestlings in a safe place and did everything they could for them not to be affected from the war. Actually swans and egrets did not want war. They wanted to solve their problems by talking. But the war had started and it could not be helped. Moreover, it was an illegal war. Nestlings who are the future of the birds were forced in war.

When the Association of Birds saw this, they called ducks and geese for a meeting. Head of the Association of Birds said that what they were doing was wrong and all kinds of birds are opposing the situation. He warned that the association will interfere if geese and ducks continue involving their nestlings in the war. By involving goose and duck nestlings in the war, geese and ducks who tried to hit swans and egrets in the weakest points started looking for new tactics.

- No. We have to fight. Fish in the lake should be ours. We should capture everything, shouted a big goose. If children are not going to be involved in the war, then they should work in the gun factory.

Duck nestling who was in the meeting with his father said to his father:

- Father I want to go to school. I missed my friends. You said children do not go to war, he added.
- Yes, children are not allowed to go to war. It is against the rights of children. I am not leaning to the idea of war. Let's see what happens in the morning.

Little goose left his father and started to roam around. Then the wise owl who gather the children and tell them stories in the evening came by. He immediately went and told him about the decision of war by geese and ducks. He added that children will be fighting in this war. Owl nodded his head wisely:

- So, they haven't learned that wars will not bring a solution but just grief and death. How bad. Moreover they are involving children in the war? Shame. What a pity. Tomorrow I will attend their meeting and tell them the grief and hardships the war would bring again. I will try to prevent this war. Luckily you came and let me know. If we are able to prevent this war, you will make history. You will be honored as the builder of peace..

The next day, wise owl went to the square where geese and ducks met. He told them that he is a peace envoy, and the lake is big enough to shelter all of them. He told them the natural resources are enough for all kinds of birds and war would bring nothing but grief, death and sadness. Geese and ducks did not want to believe him.

- We are in favour of war. We cannot gain anything without war. We should have the whole lake.
- Native birds knew the danger in the lake very well. You would endanger a lot as well. Most of you would die. You should rather talk to each other, I will help you.

The wise owl told them around the bad sides of war. Finally he was able to make geese and ducks to change their minds to battle. The two sides talked for days under the presidency of the owl, and had shared decisions. So everyone learned that peace is possible without war. Little goose had the feeling of joy in his heart to establish peace. Everyone was praising his efforts. In the island of birds everyone has been living together since then. Geese and ducks, swans and egrets are getting on well with each other. Their children are going to school and playing games together. They all join the celebrations in the holidays.

# **VULTURE WHO MADE LITTLE CANARIES WORK**

- I missed my home; I cannot stand vulture's making us work day and night any more.
- I missed my home, my mother, father and brothers as well. Where are we, how far are we from home? Isn't there a way to get away?

Vulture tricked the little canaries by saying "I will make an orchestra with you" and took them to a very high mountain slope. They were talking among themselves. This conversation was in a cove of a very huge rock, in the nest of the vulture. Another bird who vulture abducted before interrupted.

- I don't know how we can get away either. This vulture is too strong, and bigger than us. I am thinking of how to get away as well. He makes us work, carry rocks. My beak is full of crack now already. My wings are too weak to fly. Moreover it is impossible for us to fly because of our picked feathers. I don't want to carry rocks, I want my home, my mother and father. Is there anyone to hear us?
- I thought it was crime to abduct children, make them work? I thought we had the right to go to school, to be educated?
- Outlaws are going their own ways. We should use our minds and make someone hear where we are. Maybe there is someone to understand us, to save us.

When the vulture who saw the children talk among themselves:

- You lazy children. Go back to work now! Did everyone finish their jobs? This construction will have been finished by the end of the week. Or you will not get bread.

Vulture took the canaries to the construction area by force. They worked till midnight. The goshawk police who was passing by randomly looked at the houses with admiration, but he noticed something. Little canaries were working in the construction. When he noticed that the children were forced to work, he went back to the police station. When he came back with other police, children who were forced to work until midnight were on the ground because of fatigue and sleeplessness. Vulture was counting the money he made. When he saw the police coming, he flew away. Each police took a canary in their claws to their homes. They delivered them to their parents.

Vulture who abducts children could not just get away with it of course. The other day he tried to sneak with the fear of police coming and looking for him. With excitement, he hit a huge rock. Vulture was found by a cliff with a bag of money..

It is against the laws to abduct children, to make them work in the jobs that would hurt them. It is a crime against humanity to hurt them physically and spiritually, said the wise owl. He was right.

#### **DETERMINED DUCKLING**

Mother duck was feeling that she was in the end of the incubation period.

- I will walk around, my feet are numb, she said..

Father duck took the shift when she went away. He sat on the eggs immediately. He should not let the eggs cool down. "What's left, we can swim in the lake with our children in a few days." He was thinking. Finally the day came. Eggs started to crack one by one and cute ducklings took their heads first, then their bodies. But one of the eggs did not crack. The duckling inside could not get out. Father duck hit the egg with his beak. The crack got bigger.

The head getting off the crack was so cute. It shook off after getting off the egg. It turned right and left, and tried to walk right away. After a few steps, it bumped into the other duckling. Seen that it wasn't able to go further, this time it bumped into the father. Parents noticed the oddity in the behaviour of the duckling. Why was he walking like this? As if he couldn't see in front of him. They went to see the doctor owl. He took a look and said:

- Your duckling cannot see.

Parents were helpless. They did not know what to do. Days passed. Duckling managed to live with his parents, brothers and sisters. He could eat, could join the walks by following the voices and scent his mother, brother and sisters. But this could not continue like this. Duckling will grow up as well and have to live up. He should be able to do things himself, obtain some abilities and believe that he is useful. How would that happen? Something should be done for nestlings like this. But who would do it?

- There is a School for Disabled, they said. In that school nestlings get knowledge, abilities. There are even the ones who learn to fly. He can attend there.

The other day, they took the little duckling to the school for disabled. They met other nestlings who cannot see. Little duckling mingled when he heard the other nestlings' voices. Parents were surprised that nestlings were playing games and singing.

- There, they said. Our child will prepare for the future here confidently.

Ducks who left their child to the school with a clear conscience met the stork family on the way to their home. Father and mother stork looked very happy. They had their son whose leg was taken by a wolf.

- Good day. What are you doing this early in the morning?
- You know one of our ducklings cannot see. We took him to the school for visually challenged.

Little stork interfered.

- How nice. He will be happy there, believe me. I was a student in the school for disabled. I have learned so much. I wanted to be an athlete once, but I couldn't. Now I will be a trainer.

Ducks started to talk among themselves after they continue their way after the stork family.

- What do you say, do you think our son can be happy and be successful like this child?
- Why not? Of course our son's future will be bright.

It was really bright. He learnt the alphabet in the school for visually challenged very quickly. He loved reading so much that he didn't leave the library. Finally the duckling who became a good writer grew up. Got married. Had children. Now he writes and reads stories for the children going to school. You know, when the disabled children are done something about they can accomplish many things.

# **CUTE TONGUE'S NAME IS CUTE TONGUE**

For the canary family Twitter-a-lot, this was a different morning from the usual. A new baby was going to be born from the last egg they could save from the attack of the crows. They could hear the cracking sound coming from the egg. Now they could see the first hole. The beak came out of this hole. It

made the hole bigger. What was that? The shell could not resist these hits and cracked. How cute the nestling was! Looked very beautiful with her wet feathers.

Her mother and father were watching their baby proudly. Her yellow feathers were shimmery. Her eyes were so cute. But what they were actually wondering was the sound of the baby. Little nestling looked around and started to squeak like every other baby does. The squeak of this nestling was twittering. Her voice was a breath of a fresh air.

- What should we call her, her father asked.
- Cute Tongue, her mother said.

Father went to the registrar woodpecker and said,

– We have a daughter. We named her Cute Tongue.

Woodpecker started to beak the tree. After he wrote the name of Cute Tongue on the tree, he told nightingale to announce this name to everyone. So the naming of Cute Tongue was finished.

It was finished but before her father went home crows attacked the nest of Cute Tongue and took the nestling away. Mother and father canaries were so sad.

They changed the name of Cute Tongue who was taken to the Crows land. But Cute Tongue didn't like this name. She always missed her parents and she repeated her name to herself. She remembered her mother's voice saying her name. One day, a mother crow noticed how much she loved her children and thought Cute Tongue would be happy with her parents. Embarrassed of what she had done, she went to the canaries land taking Cute Tongue with her. Her parents were so happy when they saw their nestling. They hugged her for a while. Mother crow was both embarrassed and happy that she delivered the nestling to her parents.

Cute Tongue started going to school right away. At school, she started learning the canary language she almost forgot and the way canaries live. From time to time she "croaked" but her teachers encouraged her that she will grow up with two languages. Cute Tongue was so happy.

# **SWALLOWS BUILD NESTS**

Swallow family were chatting in their nest after dinner. From the eggs of the swallow family a girl and a boy were born. They all enjoyed chatting after dinner. Father swallow:

- They say this year hot weather will continue because of global warming. But of course our immigration day will not change. We should take precaution for that, right dear?
- We can hit the road without any problem if everyone fulfils their duties, the mother swallow said.
- It is good that we had rebuilt our nest this year. I am sure that we will find it in a good condition when we come back next year. We have worked hard to make it secured, haven't we? I hope they don't demolish this one again.
- You are right my love. We can settle with just a little repair next year. So, tell me children, what happened at school today? How was your day?
- Don't ask dad, we were scared to death!
- Tell me son, I am curious.
- Yes son we are listening to you, mother swallow said.
- When we went to school this morning, we found two of our friends crying in front of the fate. We had seen the sparrow in our class on the way. She was walking ahead of us. My sister called her. The little sparrow turned, she was just about to answer but without saying anything she continued walking and she was crying. We were confused. When we came to the class no one was talking. Finally, the goldfinch in the front row told us everything.
- What happened? What did he tell?
- You know the sparrow family experienced very bad things. They escaped from the war and took shelter with us in the lake. They were very poor. Their little brother got sick during the war. And they didn't have any money to treat him. They spent everything. They have no money now.
- Then what happened?
- It is clear. Now the little sparrow and her brother will not be able to come to school. And the little sparrow has to work and help her family.
- Come on, the mother swallow said. Association of Birds is responsible to treat the sick children. And every little nestling not matter if it is a boy or a girl, has the right to go to school and the Association of Birds fulfil their needs. Let me see, tomorrow we will talk to your teacher, the father swallow said.

The next morning, mother and father swallows went to school and talked to the teacher. It was like they said. Little sparrow was hospitalized. Sister sparrow went back to school. And the Association of Birds sent medication and food to their home. The sun was shining again in their nest.

# **DON'T DO IT GOLDCREST!**

Two lovebirds were sprouting.

- Have you heard brother, have you heard?
- What happened? What was I supposed to hear? Did something bad happen?
- What else do you expect; the little gold crest stole the egg of nightingale with the thief seagull.
- Ah! What! Then what happened, was he caught? Stealing eggs has very severe consequences. I am wondering how the poor gold crests are? It is very sad to hear their children be involved in such a theft.
- You are right. He was tempted by the seagull. He is just a kid, he wouldn't know.
- So, tell me, how did it happen?

A blue lovebird flew to the other branch of the pink bloomed peach tree. So she was closer to the green lovebird. She did not want to miss a word of this important news.

- Thief seagull heard that if he eats nightingale egg, his voice would be like a nightingale's.
- So pigs do fly! How can they think of something like that?
- I haven't heard either. Apparently, the seagull believed... He convinced the gold crest's nestling as well.

Together they sneaked in the nest when the lady nightingale moved from the eggs, and stole two eggs.

- So, then what happened? How was it understood?

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is going	to rain; let us go back to our nests.
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