



OXFORD

King of the birds

Set 6 Story 4

Story by Gill Munton
Illustrated by Tim Archbold

Series developed by Ruth Miskin



Speed sounds

Consonants Say the pure sounds (do not add 'uh').

Consonants												
Say the pure sounds (do not add any).												
f ff ph	l ll le	m mm	n nn kn	r rr	s ss se	v ve	z zz	sh	th	ng nk		
b bb	c k ck	d dd	g gg	h	j	p pp	qu	t tt	w wh	x	y	ch tch

Vowels Say the sounds in and out of order.

at	hen head	in	on	up	day	see happy he	high find	blow no
zoo	look	car	for door snore	fair	whirl	shout	boy spoil	

Each box contains one sound but sometimes more than one grapheme. Focus graphemes are **circled**.

Green words

Read in Fred Talk (pure sounds).

fair poor for more know dark

fir first third stir bird dirt sir chirp squirm squirt

Read in syllables.

al`ways → always im`por`tant → important

thir`ty → thirty el`e`phant → elephant

con`firm → confirm

Read the root word first and then with the ending.

whirl → whirled admit → admitted

twirl → twirled

firm → firmly

thirst → thirsty

Red words

would want their watch some there said
all water

Challenge words

feathers front

King of the birds

Introduction

Who would you choose to be in charge of your school - someone who looked good or someone who was honest and kind? What is the most important thing about a leader? The birds decide they need a new leader because they are always quarrelling. Crow wants to be the leader but he thinks no one will choose him because he doesn't have beautiful feathers. But do you think that is important? It is not beautiful feathers that will make a good King of the Birds; it is something much more important.

What do you think it will be?



Story written by Gill Munton
Illustrated by Tim Archbold

Vocabulary check

Discuss the meaning (as used in the story) after the children have read each word.

	definition:	sentence/phrase:
grand	important	<i>A grand king of all the birds.</i>
dull	boring, plain	<i>I look too dull to be king.</i>
no chance	no way of being chosen	<i>As for me - I've got no chance.</i>
display	show off	<i>Cockatoo was the first to display himself.</i>
pranced	walked proudly	<i>As he pranced in front of the birds...</i>

Punctuation to note in this story:

- 1. Capital letters to start sentences and full stops to end sentences*
- 2. Capital letters for names*
- 3. Exclamation marks to show anger, shock and surprise*
- 4. Apostrophe to show contraction: can't you're*

King of the birds

Parrot and Jay were sitting in the branches of a dark fir tree. They were having a quarrel.



"We birds are always quarrelling," chirped Parrot.

"What we need is a king. A grand king of all the birds, to see that we play fair."

Jay agreed.

They set a day for all the birds to have an important meeting.

At the meeting, they would choose a king.

Poor Crow was upset.

"No one will choose me," he chirped sadly.

"I look too dull to be a king.

Cockatoo looks fantastic!

And look at little Hummingbird!

As for me - I've got no chance."



All the birds wanted to be picked to be king, so they went to the Elephant Pond for a wash and brush-up.

Thirsty elephants, drinking at the pond, squirted the birds' feathers with water, and crocs brushed the dirt off with their teeth.



Crow was watching all this.

He spotted some bright feathers - red, gold and green -
that Cockatoo and Hummingbird had dropped on the grass.

When the rest of the birds had whirled off to the meeting,
he picked up the feathers and stuck them on to his back with mud.



"What a handsome bird!"
he chirped to himself.

Thirty birds, big and small, sat in the fir tree. The meeting began.

Cockatoo was the first to display himself.

The rest agreed that he was indeed a most splendid bird.



The second was little Hummingbird.

He twirled amidst the branches,
his bright feathers whirring
and flashing.

The third bird was Crow.
As he pranced in front of the watching birds,
a red feather fell off his back and drifted on to the grass.

There was a stir in the branches of the fir tree,
and the rest of the birds began an angry chirping.

"You have tricked us, sir!" said Cockatoo firmly.
"You may have a handful of bright feathers,
but we can see that you are still just dull old Crow."



Crow squirmed, and three more feathers fell off.

"You're right, Cockatoo," he chirped, looking at his feet.
"I was silly to pretend. I know it was wrong."

I may still be dull old Crow -
but that's not so bad, you know.
We can't all be as splendid as you.
Maybe a dull old Crow would be a good king."

Cockatoo nodded slowly, and so did Hummingbird,
and Jay, and then Parrot.

"You're right, Crow," said Parrot at last.
"You have admitted that you did wrong,
and that shows that you are a good bird.
That's more important than what you look like.
I think you'd be a terrific king."

And he was.



Questions to talk about

Re-read the page. Read the question to the children. Tell them whether it is a **FIND IT** question or **PROVE IT** question.

FIND IT

- ✓ Turn to the page
- ✓ Read the question
- ✓ Find the answer

PROVE IT

- ✓ Turn to the page
- ✓ Read the question
- ✓ Find your evidence
- ✓ Explain why

Page 9:	PROVE IT	Why did Parrot and Jay decide they needed a king?
Page 10:	FIND IT	Why did Crow think no one would pick him to be the king?
Page 11:	FIND IT	Why did all the birds go to the Elephant Pond?
Page 12:	PROVE IT	What was Crow's plan?
Page 13:	FIND IT	How did Cockatoo and Hummingbird try to impress the other birds?
Page 14:	PROVE IT	How did the other birds feel about Crow's plan?
Page 15:	PROVE IT	What made the other birds choose Crow in the end?
		Were they right? Who would you choose?

Questions to read and answer

(Children complete without your help.)

1. Why does Parrot think they need a king?
2. Why did the birds go to the Elephant Pond?
3. Why did Crow pick up the feathers?
4. What did Crow do with the feathers?
5. Why was Crow the king?

Speed words

Children practise reading the words across the rows, down the columns and in and out of order clearly and quickly.

wrong	slowly	little	important	for
agreed	third	thirty	birds	firm
thirsty	first	could	would	you
some	kind	old	all	does