

Read Write Inc.

An inclusive literacy programme by Ruth Miskin

King of the birds

Blue Storybook 4



Story by Gill Munton
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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.

But 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!

But 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 their 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.

But 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."

And I may still be dull old Crow -
but that's not so bad, you know.
We can't all be as splendid as you.
But 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?