

The Different Bird

CCSSR1: Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

Includes questions you can ask about any story.

There was a bird that loved to listen to the other birds sing. The bird listened to their songs and thought, "I wish I could sing like that, too." But, the bird was unable to sing. All that the bird could do was make little clicking sounds, and it could make a sound like the wind. Nothing happened when the bird tried to sing, just a "click, click, click, whoosh" sound came out. That's all that anyone ever heard from the bird.

All the other birds laughed and laughed at her. They all joined in and taunted, "Birds of a feather flock together. Even though you have feathers, you're not like us, so you can't be part of our flock."

"Oh dear," sighed the bird. She sat in her tree and worried. She wasn't exactly sure what a flock was, but she knew the other birds laughed at her, and she knew it was because she was different. The bird said to herself, "No other birds will want to be my friends because they all think I'm strange."

Every day the bird tried so hard to sing, but every day she just made the same clicking sound.

One day, while perched in the forest, the bird heard a new sound. It was the sound of people talking. The bird stopped and listened intently.

Then, something very strange happened. The bird discovered she could talk, too. She was able to say the same words the people in the forest were saying.

A man said, "Look at all the beautiful trees." Then the bird also said, "Look at all the beautiful trees." Another man asked, surprised, "Did you just hear that bird? It talked!" The bird repeated, "Did you just hear that bird? It talked!"

Now, all the people in the forest stopped to listen to the bird speak. One person would say something, and then the bird would echo what he had said. The people left, saying "What a special bird!" They heard, "What a special bird!" as they walked out of the forest. The bird had followed them.

Every day after that, people would come to the forest, and the bird would repeat what they said. Now, all the other birds looked at her differently.

"You're our hero," they stated. "You're such a special bird."

After that day in the forest, the bird had many friends. She still couldn't sing, but she could talk. Although she was different, she and the other birds agreed that different was special. Being different felt very good. One bird said, "Being different is like being a diamond. There are many rocks, but there are not many diamonds. Sometimes you don't see how bright a diamond is at first. Now, we see how great you are. You are our diamond."

If you know someone who is different, remember this story. Everyone is special and everyone can do different things. Don't judge other people. See who they are; learn what they can do. Be their friend. If you do that, you will find many special people.

Write your answers to these questions on another page.

1. Sequence: Which event happened first? Which happened last?
2. Character Traits: Name one character. What is one trait you infer that character has? Explain why you think that.
3. Motive: What is something that person does? Why do you think that person does that?
4. Summarize: Summarize the story in four sentences. Tell about the characters and what they do.
5. Main Idea: What do you think is the main idea of the story? Why?