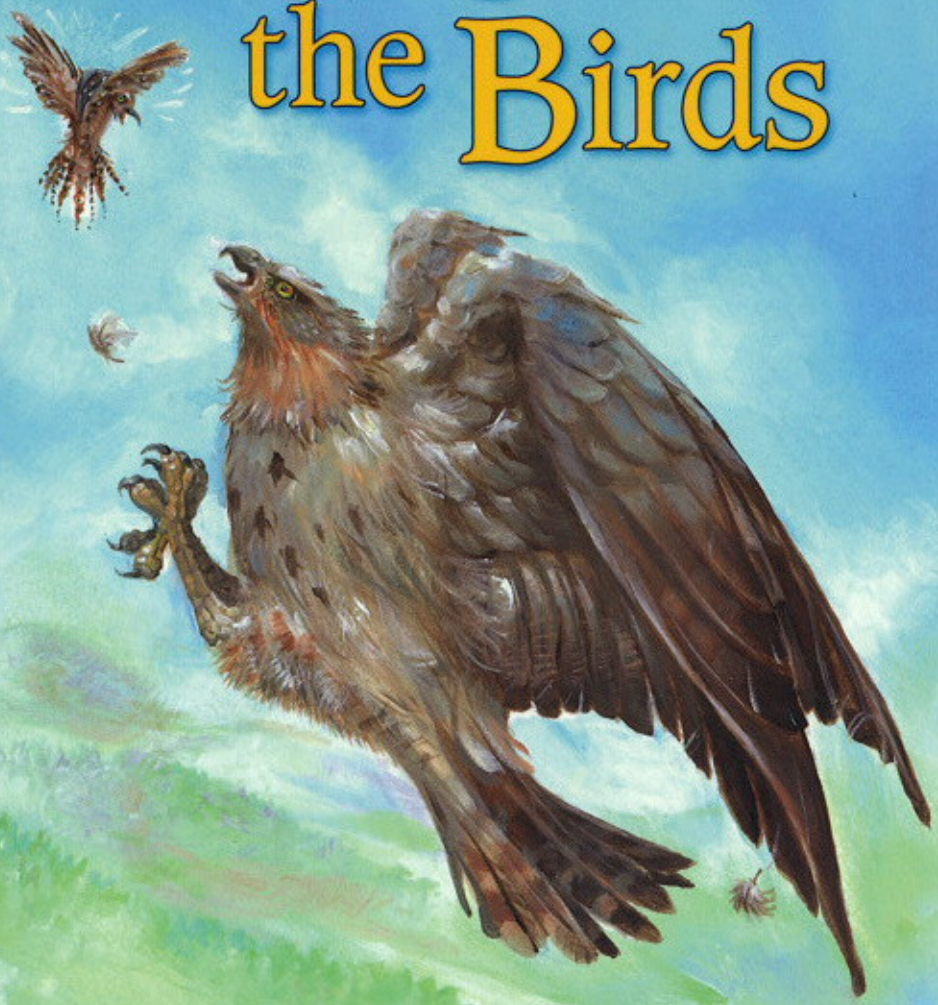
King of the Birds



Retold by Dawn McMillan

Illustrations by Jenny Mountstephen

PM Early Chapters

For teachers' inspection ONLY

King of the Birds

Level 19

Running Words	Complete text	477
Reading Record	Pages 2–6	195

Key Teaching Points

- Discuss why the story begins with 'Long ago, . . .'
- List words to describe Owl, Eagle and Wren.
- Encourage students to share their ideas about the message in the story.

Key Questions

- Which bird thought he should be the king? *(Literal)*
- Why did Wren fly underneath Eagle? *(Literal)*
- Why do you think Owl said the king should also be clever? *(Inferential)*
- What do you think *boast* means in this story? *(Inferential)*
- Explain why none of the birds cared about the way Wren looked. *(Applied Knowledge)*

Vocabulary Enrichment

- Compare the meaning of these words: *high, higher, highest.*
- Clap the syllables in these words: *underneath, excitement, suddenly.*
- Identify verbs that convey action; e.g. *soared, flapped, darted.*

Links with other PM Books

PM Early Chapters	Level 18	Wide-Mouthed Frog
PM Plus	Level 19	The Bear and the Bees

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Chapter 1

Who Shall Be King?



Long ago, the birds of the forest
came together to choose a king.

"We do need a king," said a bright yellow bird,
"but how will we choose him?"

Eagle flapped his huge wings and said,
"We need a strong king.
No bird here is stronger than I am!
I will be King of the Birds."

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Owl sat in the hollow tree
and thought, and thought.
"Yes, Eagle," she said, "you **are** strong.
But a king needs to be clever, too.
We must have a fair way to decide
who will be king."

"Shall we see how high we can fly?" said Wren.
"The bird that can fly the highest
must be King of the Birds."

"Good idea!" said Owl.

"Great idea!" laughed Eagle.
"Not one of you can fly higher than I can!"

"Is that so?" said Wren quietly.

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Chapter 2

Flying High



The forest was filled with excitement.
The birds were ready to fly.

Eagle walked backwards and forwards,
and backwards and forwards.
He looked at all the birds and boasted,
"Soon, I will be your king!
I will be a very fine king, indeed!"

Owl shouted, "**Go!**"
and all the birds flew up into the sky.