

Grade 6 – Birds of Prey

- 1- Read the text *Birds of Prey* on pages 2 to 5. Try to read some of the speeches out loud to someone in your family and show the bird's personality as you do it.
- 2- Answer the following comprehension questions orally with your parents:
 - a. What different types of birds of prey are featured in this text?
 - b. What is special about each of these birds of prey?
 - c. Which of these birds seem most dangerous to small creatures? Name the birds from most dangerous to least dangerous.
- 3- Choose a different bird of prey not mentioned in this text and do research on it. Write a speech for this bird including details about the bird of prey which is speaking. Look at the instructions on page 6.

Send me your work at melanie.custeau2@csmb.qc.ca .


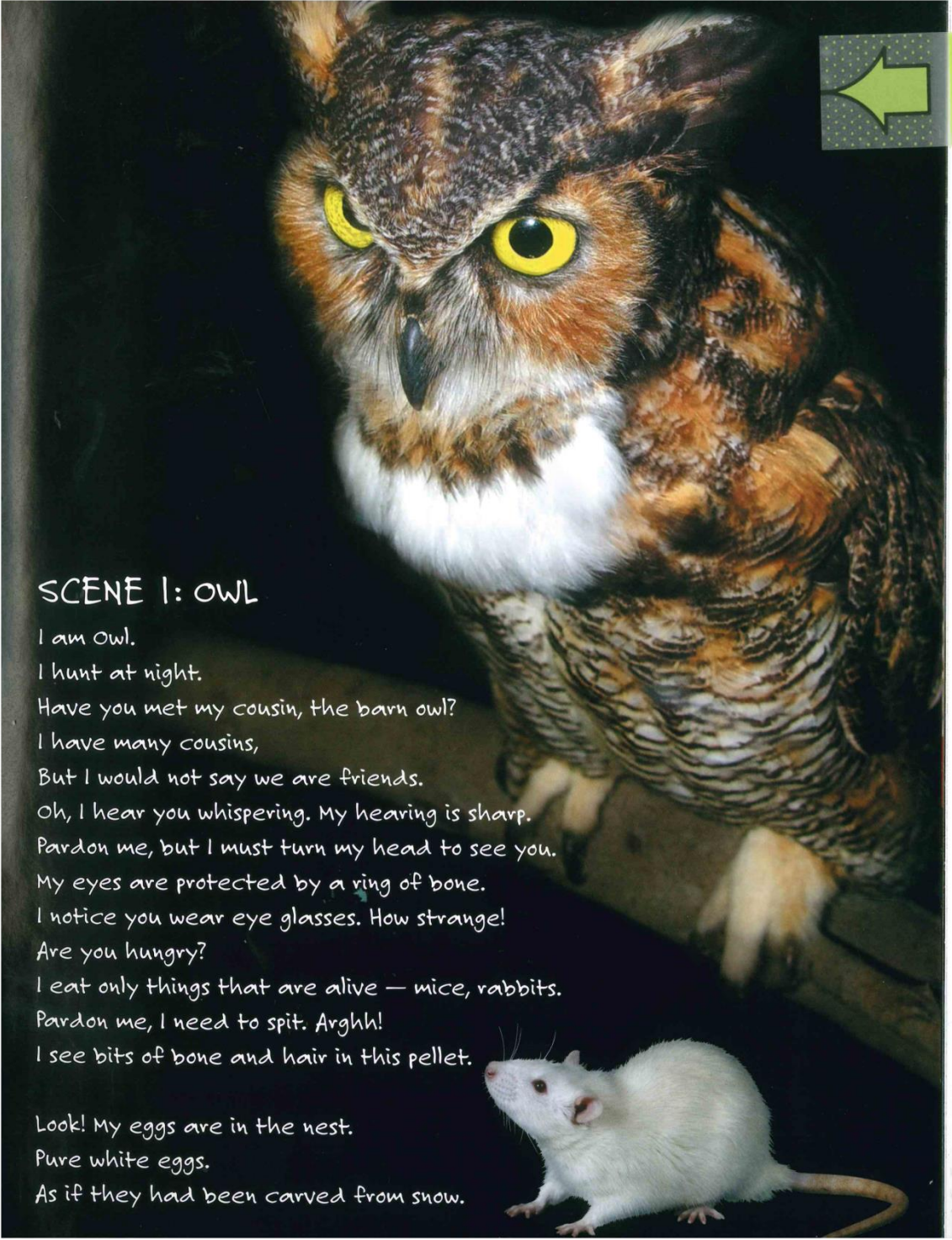
BIRDS OF PREY

NARRATOR

Human beings seem to fear most birds of prey. Hawks, eagles, and falcons hunt during the daytime, but owls are nocturnal — they are awake at night. My friends have hooked beaks and strong talons or claws on their feet. Some have sharp eyesight and hearing. It is true that they prey on small mammals, such as rats and rabbits. Some, such as the osprey and many eagles, eat fish. Falcons on the other hand enjoy insects, and, once in a while, they like to eat an owl. Scavengers such as condors and vultures feed on dead animals. There are stories of giant birds of prey snatching up babies and small children, but these are just tales, don't you agree? Come and meet four of my friends. They are waiting for you. There, in the trees.

warm up

What movies have you seen where animals or birds actually talk like human beings? Why do we enjoy these "talking creatures"?



SCENE 1: OWL

I am owl.

I hunt at night.

Have you met my cousin, the barn owl?

I have many cousins,

But I would not say we are friends.

Oh, I hear you whispering. My hearing is sharp.

Pardon me, but I must turn my head to see you.

My eyes are protected by a ring of bone.

I notice you wear eye glasses. How strange!

Are you hungry?

I eat only things that are alive — mice, rabbits.

Pardon me, I need to spit. Arghh!

I see bits of bone and hair in this pellet.

Look! My eggs are in the nest.

Pure white eggs.

As if they had been carved from snow.



SCENE 2: EAGLE

I am Bald Eagle.
Do not hide!

I can see in front of me
and at the side —
all at once.
I see four times better than you.
Look! I see that rabbit
one mile away.
You see nothing!
Of course I can hear.
Not as well as owl,
But I can hear!
I have 7000 feathers;
you have none.
And I can swim, if I have to.
For fish. I love fish.
Last year, I ate dead seal
for two weeks.
Delicious.
Lots of fat.
Dead or alive, food is food.
I eat what I want.
I have no enemies.
I am Bald Eagle.

SCENE 3: HAWK

I am Hawk.
I hunt in daylight.
I am never afraid.
My uncle is Bald Eagle.
Have you seen him?
I mate for life.
Look! My partner is doing
a cartwheel in the sky.
I shall join him.

Did you see us?
Flying up into the clouds
and diving down together.
We laugh at jet planes!
Wait! I see something moving.
I will return.

Do you see this snake?
Delicious.
Want a bite?



SCENE 4: FALCON

I am Falcon

Be careful of my beak.

It is hooked and sharp.

Oh, and my feet have long, curved claws.

We call them talons.

They help me hold my food while
my bill rips the food apart.

I have to eat, don't you?

Sure the female is larger,
but I am strong, do you hear?

My owner thinks he has trained me.

I rest on his wrist.

Do I look peaceful?

Remember: I have trained him.

I fly when I want to.

I kill what I choose.

Since his wrist is comfortable,
I like sitting here.

Waiting.

Watching.



CHECKPOINT

What does Falcon mean by this?

wrap up

1. Which of these birds seems most dangerous to small creatures?
2. Read out loud the speech of one of these birds of prey. Think about how you can show the personality of the bird as you read. You might want to use sound effects or music in the background.
3. Write a speech by another bird of prey. Deliver your speech and see if your friends can identify the bird.

Birds of Prey – Write a Speech

Choose a different bird of prey and do research on it. Write a speech your bird would say. Your speech must include the following details:

- Name of the bird
- A physical description (beak, eyes, feathers, etc.)
- Special features (eyesight, hearing, etc.)
- Food
- An action it can do (swim, special flights, turn its head, etc.)

Make sure to make your bird talk to us. Your text should show us its personality. You can make it say comments or even ask us questions.