



The Birds

Photocopiable

Activities while reading the book

Pages 1–10

1 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a The weather turns cold on the night of November the third.
- b Nat and his wife have three children.
- c The birds are very excited this year.
- d Nat wakes up at three o'clock in the morning.
- e A bird flies into his bedroom and cuts his hand.
- f Hundreds of birds fly into Nat's bedroom and attack him.
- g Nat kills nearly fifty birds in his children's bedroom.
- h Nat puts all the dead birds into a box.
- i Nat's wife hears about the birds on the television.
- j Nat knows that something is happening to the birds.
- k Nat puts wood over all the windows and doors of the house.
- l Nat and his family have food for about ten days.

2 Work in pairs.

Student A is Nat and Student B is a newspaper reporter. The reporter should ask Nat questions about the birds and the attacks on him and his family. Nat should answer the reporter's questions and explain how he and his family felt during the bird attacks.

3 Discuss these questions with another student. What do you think?

Do you think the birds in the story are normal? Why or why not? Why do you think they are like this? Do you think birds are like this in real life? Why or why not?

4 Draw pictures.

Draw a picture of a normal bird. Then draw a picture of a bird from the story. When you have finished, stand at the front of the classroom and explain to your classmates how the birds are different.

Pages 11–20

5 Choose the right answers, 1, 2 or 3.

- a The farmer ... when Nat asks him if he has wood over his windows.

1 laughs

2 shouts

3 doesn't understand

- b The farmer says that the birds ... get in with the windows closed.

1 don't want to

2 can't

3 won't try to

- c Later in the afternoon, Nat sees thousands of birds ...

1 flying together to the towns.

2 flying to his home.

3 attacking the farmer.

- d The birds attack Nat ...

1 as he is talking to the farmer.

2 after he gets inside his house.

3 before he gets inside his house.

- e The children start to cry ...

1 because they are very hungry.

2 after they find out that they have no more food.

3 when they see the blood on Nat.

- f Nat starts to bring their beds ...

1 outside.

2 down to the kitchen.

3 up to their bedrooms.

- g The radio ... that night.

1 stops early

2 starts late

3 doesn't start

- h Nat thinks that this isn't a job for ...

1 him and his family.

2 the army.

3 aeroplanes or guns.

- i Nat can hear the sea breaking ...

1 down on the beach.

2 outside the house.

3 above the roof of the house.

- j The birds come and go ...

1 according to the moon.

2 with the sea.

3 as they like.

- k The sea is going to come in at ...

1 half past one in the morning.

2 noon the next day.

3 one in the afternoon.



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Photocopiable**Pages 21–30****6 Discuss these questions with another student.****What do you think?**

What do you think will happen to Nat and his family? Why do you think this?

7 Match the letters (a–j) with the numbers (1–10) to complete the sentences.

- a Nat knows that the birds are going to attack again in the middle of the night because ...
- b Nat wants to go to Mr Trigg's farm because ...
- c Nat is afraid for Mr and Mrs Trigg because ...
- d Nat builds up the fire because ...
- e The birds attack the doors and windows, but they can't get in because ...
- f The family talk, laugh and shout because ...
- g The children can't sleep because ...
- h Nat turns the radio off because ...
- i Nat wants to get food, wood and milk because ...
- j By eight o'clock, there are no birds outside because ...
 - 1 the birds are making a lot of noise.
 - 2 he wants to see if Mr and Mrs Trigg are all right.
 - 3 they feel better when they do this.
 - 4 he knows that Mr Trigg didn't put any wood on the windows and doors of the farm.
 - 5 Nat put wood over them.
 - 6 he doesn't want the birds to fly down into the house.
 - 7 he knows that there isn't going to be anybody on it today.
 - 8 the sea comes in at that time.
 - 9 the sea has changed.
 - 10 they must be ready for the next attacks that afternoon and the next night.

8 Discuss these questions with another student.**What do you think?**

Which picture do you like best – the one on page 21, page 23, page 25, page 27 or page 28? Why do you like this picture best? What do you like about the other pictures? Why? What don't you like about the other pictures? Why?

Pages 31–39**9 Match the questions with the answers.**

- a What does Nat hear when he listens outside the children's room? ...
- b Why doesn't Nat want his wife to come upstairs? ...
- c What happens when Nat and his wife turn on the radio? ...
- d What does Nat see in the garden? ...
- e What do the living birds do? ...
- f Where does the family decide to go? ...
- g What are the birds waiting for? ...
- h Who does Nat find near the car at the farm? ...
- i Where is Mr Trigg when Nat finds him? ...
- j How many times do Nat and his wife go back to the farm? ...
- k What does Nat think he sees on the ocean? ...
- l What does Nat forget to get from the farm? ...
 - 1 Cigarettes.
 - 2 Jim, the farm boy.
 - 3 To the farm.
 - 4 They watch him quietly and do nothing.
 - 5 A ship.
 - 6 Because he doesn't want her to know that the birds are inside the house.
 - 7 Three times.
 - 8 They don't hear anything.
 - 9 On the floor, near the telephone.
 - 10 The sound of the birds' feet and wings.
 - 11 The sea to come in again.
 - 12 The gulls out on the sea again and lots of farm birds in the garden.

After reading

- 10 Work in pairs.** Discuss the main character in the book, Nat. Do you like Nat? Why or why not? Do you think that he is a good person? Why or why not?
- 11 Work in pairs.** Discuss the story's ending. Why do you think the story ends this way? What does the last sentence in the story tell you? How do you feel at the end of the story? Why do you feel this way?
- 12 Work in pairs.** Do you like reading scary stories? Why or why not?



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Pages 1–10

- 1 Put the words in the right order to make sentences.
- a it / is / suddenly / winter
.....
 - b works / Nat / days / three / a week
.....
 - c are / the birds / more excited / than usual
.....
 - d bedroom / looks / Nat's / east
.....
 - e cuts / Nat's / the bird / hand
.....
 - f the birds / Nat's / eyes / to peck / try
.....
 - g the children / Nat / out of bed / pulls
.....
 - h puts / the dead birds / Nat / in the sea
.....
 - i green and white / is / sea / the
.....
 - j the birds / Nat / are waiting / thinks that
.....
 - k are / hard and yellow / birds' eyes / the
.....
 - l dangerous / beaks / have / the birds
.....

Pages 11–20

- 2 Who says the sentences a–l?
- a 'OK, let's go now.'
 - b 'Where are they flying to?'
 - c 'Do you want me to carry you, Jill?'
 - d 'I'm going out with my gun to kill some of them.'
.....
 - e 'Have you got wood over your windows?'
.....
 - f 'I've got more important things to do than putting
wood over my windows.'
 - g 'I saw them in the sky when Jill arrived with Mr
Trigg.'
 - h 'I can hear the birds, Dad.'
 - i 'Do not go out on the streets.'
 - j 'There's no more radio tonight.'
 - k 'Are the aeroplanes coming to help us, Dad?'
.....
 - l 'Come on now, time for bed.'

Pages 21–30

- 3 What happens first? What happens next? Write the numbers, 1–8.
- a Nat jumps out of bed and starts to put wood on the fire.
 - b Nat puts more things across the bedroom doors.
 - c Nat and his wife listen to the radio, but they hear nothing.
 - d Nat's wife asks him not to leave her and the children.
 - e Nat and his family drink tea and hot milk.
 - f Johnny shouts at the windows and calls the birds names.
 - g Nat washes the birds' blood off his hands.
 - h Nat explains to his wife that the radio won't tell them anything.

Pages 31–39

- 4 Write the right words in the sentences.

America angry days door killed last
screams smoke sound understands
window wood

- a Nat is afraid because no comes from the farm.
- b The birds everybody at the farm.
- c Nat nearly when he sees Mrs Trigg's legs.
- d Nat's wife watches Nat and she what has happened to Mr and Mrs Trigg.
- e Nat takes food, drink and for the windows from the farm.
- f At home, Nat looks at every and door.
- g They turn on the radio, but there is no
- h Nat and his family have food for the next three or four
- i Nat's wife asks if is going to help them.
- j The hunting birds and seagulls attack the wood of the
- k Nat listens to the sound of the birds' beaks cutting into the new wood.
- l Nat decides to smoke the cigarette.