Snapdragons

The Singing Bird



Monica Hughes
Lucy Truman

Oxford Reading Tree

Snapdragons

What is the story about?

A little bird sang in a tree, and everyone enjoyed hearing her. One day the king heard the little bird and wanted to keep her to sing for him. He gave her a fine cage and good food, but the little bird stopped singing. The king decided to set the bird free. When she was free again, she sang as she used to and everyone was happy, including the king.

Talk together

Look at the cover and read the title together. Say, "Let's look through the story and find out what happens to the singing bird." Look briefly through the story and illustrations, and talk about what is happening.

Read the story

- Read the first sentence on page 2 to your child. Point to the next sentence and say, "Now you read the next sentence to me."
- Continue through the story, taking turns to read alternate sentences.
- Encourage your child to look at the pictures to help read new words and understand what is happening.
- Ask your child to point out the beginning and end of sentences occasionally to show he/she understands the punctuation.
- Praise your child for tracking the text by pointing accurately with a finger.
- Ask your child to read the book again, and praise him/her for noticing and pausing at full stops.

The Singing Bird



Story retold by Monica Hughes
Pictures by Lucy Truman

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS


There was once a little bird.
She sang a lot. Everyone
was happy.




The king saw the little bird.

He said, "Come and live in this lovely cage."



"Sing little bird!" said the king.
The little bird did not sing.
She was too sad.





Then the king said, "Here is some food for you."




"Now, sing little bird, sing."



But the little bird did not sing. She was very sad. Now the king was very sad, too.







Then the king let the bird out.
"Go little bird, go!" he said.


She went up and up and up.


Then the little bird was happy.
She sang and sang and
everyone was happy.




The king was very happy, too.

Play a game

Find the words

This game will help your child recognise the shapes of words, which will help him/her learn to read words on sight.

- On page 2, ask your child to find two different words with three letters in them. (was, lot)
- On page 4, find two words with four letters. (king, bird)
- On page 14, find one word with five letters (happy) and one with six letters (little).
- Ask your child to look through the book and find the longest word. (everyone, pages 2 and 14)

Other ideas

- Ask your child to describe what happened in the story using words such as 'first', 'next', 'then', 'at last'.
- Talk about reasons why wild creatures should be left to live in their natural environment.
- Ask your child to tell the story in his/her own words.
- Read other traditional tales to your child, including 'The Emperor and the Nightingale'.

Series adviser Shirley Bickler
Design by John Walker
Art editing by Hilary Wright

Oxford Reading Tree Snapdragons

Stage 3

Story by Monica Hughes
Pictures by Lucy Truman

The Singing Bird

The story of the King and the singing bird.



Book Band 3 Yellow

This story practises these words:
little then very

Stage 3 Snapdragons

Grandma's Glasses
The Singing Bird
New Blue Shoes
Presents for Baby
Melting Snow
A House for Hedgehog

Available in packs
Stage 3 Snapdragons Pack of 6 (one of each title) ISBN 978-0-19-845517-2
Stage 3 Snapdragons Class Pack of 36 (six of each title) ISBN 978-0-19-845518-9
Guided Reading Cards also available

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Orders and enquiries to Customer Services:
tel. 01536 452610

For further information, phone the
Oxford Primary Care-line: tel. 01865 353881

Story Retold by: Monica Hughes 2004
Illustrations © Lucy Truman 2004

First published 2004
10 9 8 7 6 5

ISBN 978-0-19-845520-2
9 780198 455202

www.OxfordPrimary.co.uk

Printed in China by Imago