

# Book Talk

## Fun with *The Old Woman and the Eagle*

- Remember to have fun with reading. The most important thing at this age is that your child be exposed to books and reading. Read the story slowly and let it sink in!
- As you read, stop and ask questions. Kids love active reading!
- Your children may ask you to read this story again and again. Indulge them! You may find that you see something new each time yourself!
- Try to keep an open mind and see the story from your child's perspective. Ask some simple questions, such as:

**“Wasn't that old woman silly?”**

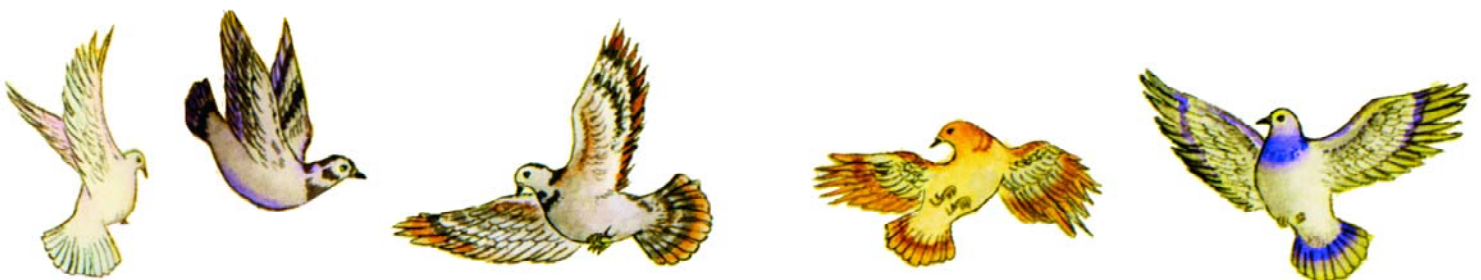
**“Why do you think she acted that way?”**

**“How do you think the eagle felt once the woman had clipped his claws, pulled his beak and brushed his tuft down?”**

**“At the end of the story, who recognized the eagle? Why do you think that is?”**

**Questions like these have no wrong answers! They encourage your children to think about the story in their own way and help them feel confident about expressing themselves.**

- Ask your child questions to help them relate the story to their own experience:
  - “Have you ever mistaken one thing for another? What happened?”**
  - “What would you have done if you were the eagle in the story? Did the eagle learn anything important?”**
  - “Have you ever looked at something & thought it was something else? What happened?”**
- Encourage your children to help you retell the story. If they learn the story “by heart,” its lessons will come to mind and help them for a long, long time.



# At Home and in the World

## Looking at Birds

- Ask your child: “Have you ever seen a pigeon? How about an eagle?” Discuss with your child how pigeons and eagles are similar and how they are different. For example:

**They both have beaks, but which one has a rounded beak?**

**They both have feathers, but what color feathers?**

**What do pigeons eat? What do eagles eat?**

- Find a book with birds in it — your local library has plenty! Take the book to the zoo or a park, or anywhere there are trees. Notice all the birds. How are they different from each other? See if your book has pictures of the birds you see.

**Try to read with your child at the same time every day —  
before or after dinner, or before bedtime.  
Make it your special time together!**

## Other Fun Activities

- Make a collection of different feathers. Try to find out what kind of bird each feather is from.
- Let your children try painting and drawing with feathers.
- Let your children dress up like birds, or act like birds.
- Play the **What Is It?** game. Get a bag, find something unusual and put it inside. Have your child put their hand into the bag and, without looking, try to guess what it is. Find a toy, or a feather, or a sea shell, or a banana. Have them make guesses. Talk about how they arrived at their conclusions.
- Play **Animal Memory**: Cut white cards or heavy paper into ten 2”x3” pieces. Draw a picture of an animal on each piece, making two cards for each animal (two cow cards, two eagle cards, two cat cards, and so on). Write the name of the animal below the picture. Mix up the cards and lay them out face down. Take turns with your child turning over two at a time. If they don’t match, turn them back over. Keep trying and when two cards match, keep them face up. Continue until you find all the pairs.

