

# The Brave Little Parrot

What can one little parrot do to save the animals?

■ An Indian folktale retold by Dr. Mike Lockett, *The Normal Storyteller*; edited by Linda Ludwig  
PAGE DESIGN BY ANGELA CHANG / ILLUSTRATED BY ARNOLD LEE

## 1

A parrot lived in a huge forest. One day a dangerous storm came to his forest home. Lightning flashed! Thunder crashed! A dead tree was struck by lightning and burst into flames. Soon the whole forest was on fire. Animals ran in every direction, seeking safety from the flames and smoke.

“Fire!” cried the little parrot. “Run to the river!” He began to fly toward the safety of the river. But on the way he saw animals that were trapped, **surrounded** by the flames. They had no chance to **escape**.

### Talk About It

- Do you think the parrot was brave or foolish? Explain.  
- *I think the parrot was ... because ...*
- What is something brave you have done?  
- *I think I was brave when ...*
- Have you ever felt hopeless about something? Explain.  
- *Yes, once ... / No, I have ...*

The parrot flew to the river. He dipped himself in the water and flew back over the **crackling** flames. The heat rising up from the burning forest was like the heat of an oven. The parrot flew to the middle of the forest and shook his wings. He **released** the drops of water which still clung to him. The drops **vanished** with a **hiss** as they hit the flames.

### Usage Tip

*He released the drops of water which still clung to him.*  
(p. 12, line 5)

句中 which 所引導的是形容詞子句修飾前面的 the drops of water，本句若是無此子句，將造成整體語意不清，故 which 前面不加逗號，表達子句存在的必要性。反之，which 前面加了逗號時，表示形容詞子句只是作補充說明，就算去除子句，整句語意仍然清楚完整。

- There is a concert tonight which you might like.

Your turn

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## 2

The parrot flew back through the flames and smoke to the river. He dipped himself in the water and flew back over the burning forest. Back and forth he flew. Soon his **feathers** were black. His feet were burned. It hurt to **breathe**. But he still flew on.

Animals who had made it to the river watched the parrot. Other birds watched from the branches of trees on the other side of the river. They pointed at him. “Look, he is trying to put out the fire by dropping water on it with his wings. How silly!” they **giggled**.

An eagle flew down into the parrot's path. “Go back, little bird!” said the eagle. “Your task is **hopeless!** A few drops of water can't put out a forest fire!”

But the little parrot continued to fly on through the smoke and flames. He could hear the great eagle above him as the heat grew fiercer. “Stop, little parrot! Save yourself!”

## Usage Tip

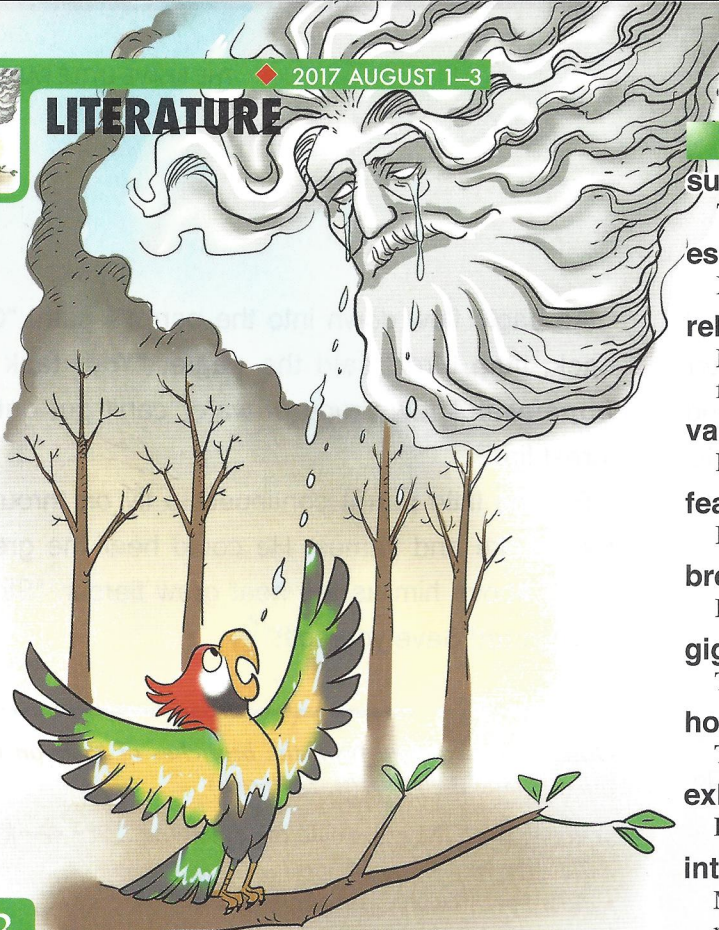
*Other birds watched from the branches of trees on the other side of the river. (p. 13, line 8)*

介系詞片語 on the other side of something... 表「在...的另一端或另一邊」。

- Please put this chair on the other side of the desk.

Your turn





3

The parrot flew back and forth until he was **exhausted**. But he continued on, trying to save the lives of the animals below.

God watched from above. He usually left humans and animals alone and did not **interfere** too much with their lives. But he watched the little bird and felt sad. Then God began to cry. Tears fell from his eyes and turned into rain. The rain began to **pour**. The flames began to die. The air began to cool. The animals below were saved. The little parrot finally stopped to rest. His wings were black. His feathers were burned.

Then God smiled down on the little parrot. He cried tears of happiness that fell down on the parrot. Wherever the **teardrops** touched the parrot's wings, new feathers now grew. Red feathers, green feathers, yellow feathers – such bright colors! The other animals looked at the little parrot that had saved them. “Hooray for the brave little parrot and for the **miraculous** rain!”

## Word Bank

**surround** (v) [səˈraʊnd] 圍繞；圍住

They built their house in an area that was **surrounded** by trees.

**escape** (v) [ɪˈskeɪp] 逃走；逃避

My cat **escaped** from the car and ran away.

**release** (v) [rɪˈliːs] 釋出；投擲；鬆開

Mary **released** the balloons from her hand and watched them fly high in the sky.

**vanish** (v) [ˈvæniʃ] 消失，滅絕

If we are not careful, bees will **vanish** from Earth.

**feather** (n) [ˈfeðə] 羽毛

I love that green hat with the two **feathers**.

**breathe** (v) [briːð] 呼吸

It is hard to **breathe** when you have a cold.

**giggle** (v) [ˈɡɪɡəl] 咯咯地笑；傻笑

The girls couldn't stop **giggling** at Frank's jokes.

**hopeless** (adj) [ˈhɒplɪs] 沒希望的

The situation is **hopeless**. I am never going to find my keys.

**exhaust** (v) [ɪɡˈzɔːst] 使筋疲力竭；使疲憊不堪

Everyone was **exhausted** after the race.

**interfere** (v) [ˌɪntəˈfɪr] 干預，干涉

My mother never **interferes** in my life. She always supports my decisions.

**pour** (v) [pɔːr] (使) 傾瀉；倒，灌

In the middle of our walk, it began to **pour**, and we got all wet.

**teardrop** (n) [ˈtɪrˌdrɒp] 淚滴，淚珠

**Teardrops** poured down Sally's face when she heard she had won the contest.

## More Information

**crackle** (v) [ˈkrækəl] 使發爆裂聲

**hiss** (n) [hɪs] 嘶嘶聲

**back and forth** (idiom) [bæk][ænd][fɔːθ] 來來回回

**miraculous** (adj) [mɪˈrækjələs] 奇蹟般的；不可思議的

## Word Bank Focus

**breath** (n) [breθ] 呼吸

Sonja took a deep **breath** before she went up to give her speech.

**brehtaking** (adj) [ˈbreθˌteɪkɪŋ] 令人屏息的；美得驚人的

The view from the top of the mountain is **brehtaking**.

**breathe down someone's neck** (idiom) [briːð][daʊn][ˈsʌm.wʌnz][nek]

緊緊盯住(某人)；監視(某人)

I wish my boss would stop **breathing down my neck**. I will finish the project on time.

## Usage Tip

*The rain began to pour. The flames began to die. The air began to cool. The animals below were saved.* (p. 14, line 8)

不使用連接詞，這些獨立短句的堆疊呈現，常出現在文學形式的寫作中，重點在於捨棄不含重要訊息的文字，直接快速突顯出表達重點。

• I came. I saw. I conquered. (Julius Caesar)

Your turn