

# Story Green Words

Ask children to read the words first in Fred Talk and then say the word.

Jay Crow grand dull chance front\*

Ask children to say the syllables and then read the whole word.

Parr|ot Humm|ing|bird Cock|a|too quarr|el ele|phant  
hand|some dis|play splen|did a|midst terr|ific firm|ly

Ask children to read the root first and then the whole word with the suffix.

squirt → squirted whirl → whirled twirl → twirled  
whir → whirring prance → pranced squirm → squirmed  
admit → admitted feather → feathers\*

\* Challenge Words

# Vocabulary Check

Discuss the meaning (as used in the story) after the children have read each word.

**grand**

**definition:**

*important*

**sentence:**

*A grand king of all the birds.*

**dull**

*boring, plain*

*I look too dull to be king.*

**no chance**

*no way of being chosen*

*As for me – I've got no chance.*

**display**

*show off*

*Cockatoo was the first to display himself.*


**pranced**

*walked proudly*

*As he pranced in front of the birds ...*

# Red Words

*the columns and in and out of order clearly and quickly.*



would	want	their	watch
some	there	said	all
water	were	they	are
to	was	one	wash*
you	would	any	could

# King of the birds



Parrot and Jay were sitting in the branches of a dark fir tree. They were having a quarrel.



“We birds are always quarrelling,” chirped Parrot.  
“What we need is a king. A grand king of all the birds, to see that we play fair.”

Jay agreed.

They set a day for all the birds to have an important meeting.

At the meeting they would choose a king.

No one will choose me, he chirped sadly.  
“I look too dull to be a king.  
Cockatoo looks fantastic!  
And look at little Hummingbird!  
As for me – I’ve got no chance.”



All the birds wanted to be picked to be king, so they went to the Elephant Pond for a wash and brush-up.

Thirsty elephants, drinking at the pond, squirted the birds' feathers with water, and crocs brushed the dirt off with their teeth.



He spotted some bright feathers – red, gold and green –  
that Cockatoo and Hummingbird had dropped on the grass.

When the rest of the birds had whirled off to the meeting,  
he picked up the feathers and stuck them on to his back with mud



“What a handsome bird!”  
he chirped to himself.

Thirty birds, big and small, sat in the fir tree. The meeting began.

Cockatoo was the first to display himself.

The rest agreed that he was indeed a most splendid bird.



The second was little Hummingbird.  
He twirled amidst the branches,  
his bright feathers whirring  
and flashing.



The third bird was Crow.

As he pranced in front of the watching birds,  
a red feather fell off his back and drifted on to the grass.

There was a stir in the branches of the fir tree,  
and the rest of the birds began an angry chirping.

“You have tricked us, sir!” said Cockatoo firmly.

“You may have a handful of bright feathers,  
but we can see that you are still just dull old Crow.”

Crow squirmed, and three more feathers fell off.

“You’re right, Cockatoo,” he chirped, looking at his feet.

“I was silly to pretend. I know it was wrong.



I may still be dull old Crow –  
but that's not so bad, you know.  
We can't all be as splendid as you.  
Maybe a dull old Crow would be a good king.”

Cockatoo nodded slowly, and so did Hummingbird,  
and Jay, and then Parrot.

“You're right, Crow,” said Parrot at last.  
“You have admitted that you did wrong,  
and that shows that you are a good bird.  
That's more important than what you look like.  
I think you'd be a terrific king.”

And he was.



# Questions to talk about

Ask children to TYP each question using 'Fastest finger' (FF) or 'Have a think' (HaT).

- p.9** (FF) What did the birds plan to do at the meeting?
- p.10** (FF) Why did Crow think no one would choose him?
- p.11** (FF) How did the birds prepare for the meeting?
- p.12** (HaT) What did Crow do, and why?
- p.13** (FF) How did hummingbird try to persuade everyone that he should be king?
- p.14** (HaT) Why were the other birds angry with Crow?  
(FF) What did Crow say when he admitted that he was wrong?
- p.15** (HaT) Do you think the other birds should have chosen Crow to be king, and why?


# Questions to read and answer

*(Children complete without your help.)*

1. Why does Parrot think they need a king?
2. Why did the birds go to the Elephant Pond?
3. Why did Crow pick up the feathers?
4. What did Crow do with the feathers?
5. Why was Crow the king?

# Speedy Green Words

Ask children to practise reading the words across the rows, down the columns and in and out of order clearly and quickly.



always	choose	upset	fantastic
thirsty	always	choose	first
agreed	important	look	little
green	rest	himself	indeed
looks	wrong	know	right