



# The Chief of the Birds

## READ ALOUD GUIDE

**Themes:** Cooperation, Working Together, Leadership

**Book Brief:** Who is the king of the skies? The birds of Calabar have a battle to find out!

**Author:**  
Storytime

**Illustrator:**  
Lisa Battaglini

## BEFORE READING

**The Cover:** Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover and title.

**The Pictures:** Take a quick picture walk and ask students what they notice about the illustrations.

**Prior Knowledge:** Ask, "What makes a good leader? Is it always the biggest or strongest?" (Optional: Think, Pair, Share)

**Vocabulary:** Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

**Purpose for Reading:** "As we read, think about the central message or lesson of this story. What do the animals learn about working together?"

## DURING READING

**Check for understanding & make connections:**

- Who is the original leader of Calabar? What does he want the animals to do?
- Who do the animals want to be their leader? Why?
- Why couldn't they agree on a chief? What happens as a result?
- What unexpected thing happens during the competition?
- Why did they choose the winner they did?



**Think Aloud:** "I notice that when the animals stop fighting and start working together, things begin to improve. I wonder if the author is showing us that cooperation and teamwork make a community stronger than competition."

## AFTER READING

**Our Purpose:** "What is the central message or lesson of this story? What did the animals learn about working together instead of fighting?"

**Extending Our Thinking:** Ask students, "How does our classroom or school become better when everyone works together?" Encourage students to think of one way they can work together with classmates to make their classroom, school, or community better. Students can draw or write about their teamwork idea and share how cooperation makes things better for everyone, just like it did for the animals in Calabar.

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- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.