



We hope you have fun talking, sharing and doing the activities with your child. The suggestions were designed for kids from 3 to 11 years old. The talking points and activities are designed for children of different ages and maturity levels. Please use the age appropriate discussion suggestions as a starting point for dialogue with your child. TAKE TIME TO TALK can be used while driving, walking, bath time, bedtime chat or any time that singing a song, asking a question or sharing is appropriate. The conversation, sharing and activity when your child is 3 years old will be completely different when your child is 8-9 and 10 years old. We hope you use this guide as a window into your child's mind and heart. Listening to your child is a wonderful way to raise your child's self-esteem. We didn't include the reverse of the talking points however, it is important for you to talk about your thoughts, ideas and experiences for every talking point below. It's an opportunity to share some of your life and history with your child, as well as your feelings on various subjects. You are your child's first and best teacher!

Have fun!

"The Eagle's Claw" was written to entertain and teach children positive concepts about themselves, other people & their world. 1. What are the names of the groups of birds? How do you picture them? What color are the Song Birds? The Worker Birds? The Bully Birds? The Gooney Birds? You could draw 1 or more of the groups. Does one group have a crested head? Or another group have long tail feathers? Maybe one group are small or one group is large. They say in the dialogue that the birds are different colors so you make up what colors they are. Use your imagination to create what the birds look like. Maybe your grown-up can draw what they picture when they hear the story.

Why aren't the birds friendly toward each other? Why do they try to stop Miles Meadowsong & Gail Stargazer from being friends? Have you ever heard about people who didn't like other people because of the color of their skin or their nationality or their beliefs? Why do people feel this way toward others sometimes? What can you think of that can help people of different colors, nationalities & beliefs understand each other better? What makes the flocks of birds work together in the story? Do they feel differently toward each other by the end of the story? What does Miles mean when he says: "We're different.. but maybe not so different after all"? Is there something that people can learn from the birds about getting along?

2. Gail figures out what to do during the hurricane. How did she figure it out? Why is listening to someone just as important as talking to someone? Do you listen to your friends, your teachers, & your parents when they talk to you? Why or why not? If Gail hadn't figured out the answer to their problem during the storm, what might have happened to the birds?

3. Miles is sad because when he sings, no one seems to listen to him. Have you ever felt that you were trying hard to do something, but no one was paying attention? Did you give up? Does Miles give up?

Who helps Miles? Has anyone ever helped you this way? How important is it to have a friend like this? Do you have such a friend? Have you thanked that person recently for their friendship? Do you encourage your friends or family members when they seem discouraged? Can you tell me about that?

4. At the end of the play, the flocks of birds survive because they work together to pull each other to the rock. Have you ever solved a problem by cooperating with others? Tell me about it. How hard is it to cooperate with someone, especially if you don't know them very well? Is it easier to solve a problem when you have one brain thinking, or a bunch of brains working together? What are some of the things you need to get people to start to work together?

5. This play is called "The Eagle's Claw". Why? What has happened to the eagles that used to live on Eagle's Bluff? Can you think of any examples where animals or birds have been hurt by various types of pesticides, industrial waste, or excessive hunting? What happens to the other animals & the environment when one species is endangered, or becomes extinct? What can the government, your community, and you do to prevent this? Research how the eagles are doing where you live. Has their habitat improved? What still needs to be done for eagles and other wildlife where you live?

6. If "The Eagle's Claw" were presented as a movie instead of an audio adventure, how would it be different? When you heard the voices of the actors playing the birds did you picture in your mind what they would look like?

## ACTIVITIES MEMORY BOOK

Fold a piece of paper in half and then in half again. This is your Memory Book. You and your child choose 4 scenes from the audio adventure. Have the child draw a scene on each page of the book and then color the scenes. Adult participation in this step of the activity will depend on the age of the child. Discussion between adult and child as to which scenes should be done is an important part of the sharing.

When the pictures are finished, older children can add dialogue balloons. Younger children can decide on the dialogue and the adult can write it in the balloons.

## PLAY ACTING

The birds in "The Eagle's Claw" are different colors, they have different accents and they have different bird movements. You and your child could create two new groups of birds with their own colors, accents and movements. They could be a combination of the Workers, Goonies, Warriors and Song Birds or they could be totally unique. After you have defined the characteristics of the birds, assign parts to you, your child and any other family member or friend that is interested in participating. Create your own play. You can be as creative as you want with costumes and set, or you can just use your imagination.

We hope that you enjoy our Audio Adventure. Our other Audio Adventures focus on social and civic cooperation, sharing feelings, prejudice, and setting goals and self-discipline.