



CHARACTER BUILDING LESSONS

SOMMER-TIME STORIES

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THE EAGLE AND THE CHICKENS

Story Description

“Why fit in when you were born to stand out?”

When a storm separates a young eagle from his family, he takes up residence with a group of chickens. Because the chickens were poking fun at his crooked beak, the way he flaps his wings, and his white feathered head, the eagle is ashamed and embarrassed.

Soon he discovers even more differences. Unlike the frightened chickens, he does not fear the sly fox. While the chickens are happy to live on the ground, he yearns to fly. Although the rooster insists that the eagle was born to keep his feet on the ground, the sight of two soaring eagles changes everything. From this delightful tale, readers learn to reach out for their full potential and let their spirits fly.



Main Character Traits

Self-Esteem / Perseverance / Assertiveness

Other Character Traits

Courage (to Be Yourself), Listening to Good Advice and Influencers

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Perseverance

(Parents to find babies and baby eagle to find food)

That night a big windstorm knocked the eagle's nest from the tree. Papa and Mama quickly flew away.

Then Papa said, "Let's go back and search for the babies."

"Let's go," said Mama. But the weather was so stormy that they could not find them. "We'll search again when it's daylight," said Mama....

As soon as the sun rose that morning, Papa and Mama flew to where the nest was.

Suddenly, Papa yelled, "Oh, nooooo! I see two raccoons and lots of feathers."

"Ohhhhh!" cried Mama. "The raccoons ate our babies."

Quickly, Papa and Mama flew down to attack the raccoons. But as soon as the raccoons saw the eagles, they dashed into the hollow of a tree. Sadly, Papa and Mama flew away.

When it was noon, the young eagle hiding in the nest began looking for his sister. When he saw eagle feathers on the ground, he groaned, "Oh, nooooo! Some animal ate my sister. I've got to get out of here!" The eagle walked and walked. "I'm getting tired and hungry," he said. Suddenly, he heard a slight noise. "What's that?" he asked. "It sounds like many birds. If there are birds, there must be food."

When the eagle got close to the sound, he saw the birds. "Wow!" he exclaimed. "Look at all the food they have to eat." Upon seeing the rooster, he asked, "Do you mind if I join you? A big windstorm knocked my nest from the tree."

"Sure," said the rooster. "Eat all the food you want."

"Thank you so much," the eagle said.

The parent eagles looked for the baby eagles, but gave up and were unable to rescue the babies. However, the baby boy eagle persevered in looking for food and finally found it with the chickens. To be successful in life, you must persevere and not give up. Most things require hard work, so never give up!

Avoid Listening to Negative Influencers

While the eagle was eating, a chicken began to laugh at him. "You sure have a funny-looking mouth," she said. "It's bent." Then all the other chickens began laughing.

The eagle covered his beak with his wings and said, "I can't help the way I look. Maybe when I grow up, my mouth will look like yours." Then he slowly walked away.

The next day the eagle was so happy thinking about all the food he could eat that he flapped his big wings. "Stop that flapping!" demanded the angry rooster. "You're making a big mess. Look at us when we flap our wings. You don't see us chickens making a big mess."

"I can't help making a mess with my wings," whispered the eagle. As

he walked away, he groaned, “I guess it’s best for me not to flap my wings again.”

One day a chicken noticed that some of the feathers on the eagle’s head were turning white. “You’re so young,” the chicken said laughing. “Why is your head turning white? You look so old.” All the chickens began laughing at the eagle.

“I can’t help the way I look,” whispered the eagle. He walked into the chicken coop and groaned over and over again, “Ohhhhh! How I wish I looked like the chickens.” But in spite of his wishing, his head became whiter and whiter and his feathers darker and darker.

The eagle allowed the chickens to influence his thinking and self-image which made him unhappy and dissatisfied with himself. Don’t listen to those who want to say bad things about you or drag you down.

Self-esteem, Courage to Be Yourself, and Assertiveness

One day a hungry fox came into the pen to get a chicken. When the rooster saw him, he shouted, “Fox!” The rooster and all the chickens dashed into the chicken coop, but the eagle was not afraid. He ran to attack the fox. When the fox saw the eagle and his big claws and beak, he ran away as fast as he could.

When the rooster saw that the fox was gone, he ran out of the chicken coop and yelled at the eagle. “How can you be so foolish? Don’t you know that fox can kill you?”....

Still, every night the eagle thought about flying. Often he would spread his wings and groan, “Ohhhhh! How I wish I could fly.” But then he would say, “I know it’s hopeless.”

One day a mighty wind storm ripped across the barnyard. “Run inside!” shouted the rooster.

All the chickens dashed into the chicken coop, except the eagle. He loved the wind. When the rooster ran into the chicken coop, he turned around and saw the eagle spreading out his wings. He was furious.

However, as the strong wind flowed through the eagle’s wings, he exclaimed, “This is fun!”

Suddenly, the eagle became frightened. “Oh, no!” he yelled. “I can’t let myself fly.” He quickly pulled in his wings and dug his claws hard into the earth. “I must listen to the rooster and stay on the ground.”

After the storm, the rooster raced out of the chicken coop and yelled, “Why are you so foolish again? Don’t you know the wind could pick you up and slam you into that fence?”

The eagle bowed his head and said, “I’m sorry. Next time when a storm comes, I’ll run into the chicken coop just like you.”

Instead of standing up for himself and doing what he was born to do, the eagle listened to the chickens. If you worry about what others say about you, your focus will be on the wrong things and the important things will not be accomplished.

Courage to Be Yourself

One day the eagle looked up and saw two birds that looked just like his dad and mom gliding in the sky. “What’s that I see?” he exclaimed. “Those birds look just like me. If they can fly, so can I!”

The eagle ran back to his friends and exclaimed, “I just saw two birds that look just like me flying high in the sky! If they can fly, so can I!”

All the chickens laughed at the eagle. The rooster grabbed the eagle’s wing and said, “Just because you can flap your wings, doesn’t mean you can fly. We chickens have wings, but you never see us flying. It’s impossible for you to fly! Trust me. You were born to live on the ground, just like the rest of us.”

“I guess I’ll never fly,” groaned the eagle as he slowly walked away.

That night he wept over and over again, “Ohhhhh! How I wish I could fly!” After crying for a long time, suddenly he lifted up his head and exclaimed, “The least I can do is try! Everyone says I can’t fly. But no one can stop me from trying.”

The eagle finally realized that he must have the courage to try to fly. It was part of who he was. Everyone should be true to themselves and not try to be something they are not.

Perseverance

From then on, every day when the chickens were busy eating, the eagle went behind the chicken coop and flapped his wings. “I need to keep flapping my wings so they become strong. I’ve made up my mind, when my wings are strong, I’m going to try my best to fly!” Then he said, “How foolish I was to listen to those voices trying to keep me down.”

Then, when his wings were strong, he saw an eagle flying. “Here I go!” he exclaimed. “I’m going to try my best to fly.” He flapped his wings with all his might. Suddenly, his feet left the ground. As he went higher and higher, he let out a mighty cry, “Hoorayyyyy! Now I am free to fly and to become what I was born to be!”

When the eagle decided to be what he was born to be, he became free to fly. However, he still had to persevere, focus on flying, and refuse to listen to anyone trying to keep him down. With perseverance and focus on the right things, people can accomplish much in life. Always listen to positive people who will encourage you to do your best!

Questions

1. What caused the baby eagles to fall from the tree? *A big windstorm knocked the nest from the tree.*
2. What happened to the baby eagle that went in the woods? *Two raccoons ate her.*
3. Why did the eagle parents think both babies had been eaten? *They*

saw feathers next to the raccoons, so they thought that both baby eagles had been eaten.

4. Why did the baby eagle join the chickens? *The chickens allowed the baby eagle to eat all the food he wanted.*

5. Why did the chickens laugh at the baby eagle? *He looked different from them; they said that his mouth was funny-looking, and he looked old since his head was turning white.*

6. Why did the rooster get mad at the eagle? *The eagle was flapping his big wings and making a mess.*

7. What happened when a fox came in the pen to get a chicken? *The rooster and chickens ran into the chicken coop, but the eagle ran to attack the fox and chased it away.*

8. After the fox ran away, what did the rooster say to the eagle? *The rooster told the eagle that he was foolish since the fox could kill him.*

9. What did the eagle promise the rooster he would do next time? *He promised to run into the chicken coop like the chickens.*

10. What did the rooster tell the eagle about flying? *The rooster said that the eagle was born to live on the ground like the rest of them.*

11. How did the eagle respond to the rooster's statement? *The eagle said that the rooster was right, and he was no different from them.*

12. Why did the eagle think it was impossible for him to fly? *The eagle believed what the rooster told him instead of believing in himself and who he was.*

13. One day when a windstorm ripped across the barnyard, the chickens dashed into the chicken coop. What did the eagle do? *The eagle had fun spreading his wings in the wind until he became frightened. Then he pulled in his wings and dug his claws hard into the earth. He said, "Oh, no! I can't let myself fly. I must listen to the rooster and stay on the ground!"*

14. When the rooster yelled at the eagle for not running into the chicken coop to get away from the storm, what did the eagle say? *The eagle said, "I'm sorry. Next time when a storm comes, I'll run into the chicken coop just like you."*

15. One day the eagle was excited when he saw two birds flying. Why was this exciting? *The birds looked just like him, so he thought that if they*

could fly, so could he.

16. What made the eagle change his mind and go back to thinking he could not fly? *The rooster said, "Just because you can flap your wings doesn't mean you can fly. We chickens have wings, but you never see us flying. It's impossible for you to fly! Trust me. You were born to live on the ground, just like the rest of us."*

17. What finally caused the eagle to decide to try to fly? *After crying for a long time, the eagle exclaimed, "The least I can do is try! Everyone says I can't fly. But no one can stop me from trying." He thought trying was better than doing nothing.*

18. When did the eagle practice flying? *When the chickens were busy eating, the eagle went behind the chicken coop and flapped his wings.*

19. What did the eagle finally learn? *He learned not to listen to those voices trying to keep him down.*