

The Story Time Bird Party

A 5–10 minute group read-aloud plan for librarians · Ages 3–8 · Any group size

Built for the realities of story time: big energy, mixed ages, and the need to land the plane calmly. Sound effects are the engine — don't skip them.

Opener — Call and response (1 minute)

“When I say BIRD, you say PARTY! Bird—” (*PARTY!*) “Bird—” (*PARTY!*) Then: “A party has a guest list. Let's meet today's guest.”

Read-aloud with sound effects (4–5 minutes)

Read one chapter from *Welcome to the Bird Party!* and give the group a job. Best chapters for a crowd:

- **The Pesquet's Parrot** — everyone growls on cue (yes, this parrot growls)
- **The Belted Kingfisher** — rattle-rattle-rattle when he guards his pond
- **The Owl** — whisper-quiet “hoo-hoo”; owls fly silently, so we practice silent wings
- **The Seagull** — one big group SQUAWK, then everyone guards their pretend sandwich

The Freeze-Flap game (2 minutes)

Everyone stands. “Flap!” means fly in place; “Heron!” means freeze perfectly still, eyes on the water. Alternate three or four rounds and end on “Heron.” The room is now seated-and-settled without you asking.

Landing — One wonder (1 minute)

“Kip's rule is: never stop wondering. What's one thing you now wonder about birds?” Take two or three answers. Wondering out loud is the point — no answers required.

Display & checkout tie-in

Set the book face-out with a sign: “Which bird would YOU be?” Pair it with your nonfiction bird section — this book is the bridge from story time to the 598s.

Never stop wondering. Never stop learning. · From *Welcome to the Bird Party!* by Janet M. Fry