The Bird Behind the Wall

LITTLE READERS



BEFORE YOU READ

Look and Wonder

1. Where are the friends looking?
2. What might they hear?
3. Can a sound come from out of sight?
4. Share an idea with a partner.



Ben heard a bird on the way to school.
Its song came from behind a brick wall.
He stopped beside Mina and Max.
None of them could see the bird.



The wall ran along a small garden.
A tree rose above one corner.
Ben looked between its green leaves.
Nothing moved on the branches.



"It must be in that tree."
Max listened for another song.
Mina looked along the top of the wall.
The song came once more.



They stayed on the public path.
Ben did not try to climb the wall.
"We can listen from here," said Mina.
Then the three went on to school.



The next morning, they came early.
The leaves moved in a light wind.
Ben waited for the same clear notes.
This time, the garden was quiet.



"Maybe the bird has flown away."
Max watched the tree for a moment.
Mina looked at her little watch.
They had come before their usual time.



They walked slowly toward the corner.
Then a clear song rose behind them.
Ben turned back toward the brick wall.
"It is still here!" he said.



Mina checked her watch again.
The hands showed a quarter past eight.
"When did we hear it yesterday?"
Ben could not remember the exact time.



At school, Mina took out a notebook.

She drew a small clock on a page.

Ben drew the wall beside it.

Max added a little mark for the song.



"Let's write down when we hear it."

Mina left room for another day.

"We can check on our way past."

They did not need to wait all morning.



On Wednesday, they reached the wall early.
The street clock showed ten past eight.
The friends stood back from the garden gate.
There was no song yet.



A van passed along the road.
Its engine hid the small street sounds.
Max waited until the van had gone.
Then he heard a light clicking sound.



The bird began to sing again.

Mina looked at the street clock.

It was a quarter past eight.

Ben made a mark in the notebook.



"That is the same time as Tuesday."

Max pointed to their two marks.

"Does it sing all day?" Ben asked.

Mina said they had not checked that.



After school, they passed the wall again.
Sunlight lay across the garden gate.
A pigeon walked along the path.
They did not hear the clear song.



Ben watched the pigeon lift its wings.

"Could that be our bird?"

It gave a low, soft coo.

Max shook his head at the different sound.



Mina drew a line in the afternoon space.
It meant they had heard no song then.
"We only listened for a little while."
Ben added a small clock beside the line.



Their teacher looked at the notebook.

"What have you noticed so far?"

Max pointed to the two morning marks.

Mina showed the quiet afternoon space.



"What else changes at that time?"

The teacher gave the notebook back.

Ben thought about the clicking sound.

He had heard it just before the song.



"Tomorrow, let's look as well as listen."

Mina put the notebook in her bag.

Max said they could check the tree.

Ben wanted to find the clicking sound.



Stop and Think

WHAT HAVE YOU READ SO FAR?

1. When did the friends hear the song?
2. What did they write in the notebook?
3. What did they hear before the song?
4. What will they check next?



Make a Prediction

USE THE CLUES

1. Where might the bird really be?
2. What else could make the clicking sound?
3. How could the friends find out?
4. Share a prediction with a partner.



On Thursday, they came along the path.
The street clock was near quarter past eight.
The friends stopped beside the low gate.
They kept the entrance clear.



At first, the garden was quiet.
Then Ben heard the little click.
A window opened above the brick wall.
A woman pulled its curtain to one side.



The clear bird song followed at once.
Max looked up at the open window.
He could see a yellow shape inside.
It sat behind a few thin bars.



"Good morning," the woman called down.

"Good morning," Mina said in reply.

"We can hear a bird from here."

The woman smiled toward the window.



"That is Pip, my little canary."
She stood beside a large indoor cage.
The yellow bird rested on its perch.
Its bright song came out to the path.



"We thought it was in the tree."
Ben pointed to the branches by the wall.
"The sound seemed to come from there."
The woman looked toward the leafy corner.



"I open this window each morning."

"Then I give Pip fresh water."

Mina glanced at the street clock again.

It was a quarter past eight.



"We heard the click before the song."
Max showed her the little notebook.
"We wrote down the time twice."
She leaned forward to see the marks.



"You heard me open the window."
The woman pointed to its small catch.
"It stays closed while I am out."
Ben thought about the quiet afternoon.



"Does Pip only sing in the morning?"

Mina held the notebook against her bag.

"Oh, he sings at other times, too."

"The closed window makes him harder to hear."



The friends thanked her for explaining.
They waved from the public path.
Pip stayed safely inside his cage.
Then the friends walked on to school.



Ben opened the notebook at their table.

He drew a window above the wall.

Mina drew a small yellow bird inside.

Max put a mark by the window catch.



"We heard a bird behind the wall."
Ben pointed to his first tree drawing.
"But we had not seen its perch."
Mina added the room behind the window.



Their teacher asked about the afternoon line.
"We did not hear Pip then," said Max.
"That does not mean he was not there."
Mina pointed to the closed window drawing.



They made two small pictures side by side.
One showed the window open in the morning.
One showed it closed after school.
Pip sat indoors in both pictures.



On Friday, the street was busy.

Ben could hear a bus near the corner.

He could not hear Pip over its engine.

The window above the wall was open.



When the bus moved on, they listened.
The clear notes reached the path again.
Max smiled up at the yellow bird.
Mina waved to the woman at the window.



"Some sounds are easy to miss."

Ben looked from the road to the wall.

"We heard more when the bus went away."

Max made one last mark in the notebook.



Later, Ben heard a bird near school.
This song was short and low.
He looked before he guessed its place.
A small brown bird stood on the fence.



Mina stopped beside him to listen.

"That one has a different song."

Ben watched it fly toward the playground.

Then he closed their notebook and smiled.



Talk About the Story

LOOK BACK AT THE WHOLE STORY

1. Where was Pip when he sang?
2. Why was he harder to hear after school?
3. How did the notebook help?
4. What did Ben learn from the bus?



Think and Discuss

CONNECT THE STORY TO YOUR LIFE

1. What sounds do you notice each day?
2. What can hide a quiet sound?
3. How can you check a guess?
4. What could you record in a notebook?



Put the Pictures in Order

Look at the four pictures.

Write 1, 2, 3, and 4 in the boxes.



A ☐



B ☐



C ☐



D ☐

Point to the pictures and tell the story.

Tell the Story

USE THE FOUR PICTURES ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE

First ...

Next ...

Then ...

Finally ...



Draw a Sound You Notice

Draw where a sound comes from.

Show when you can hear it clearly.

I can hear _____

I hear it best when _____



The End

Thank you for reading.

Listen. Look. Check your guess.

What will you notice today?

