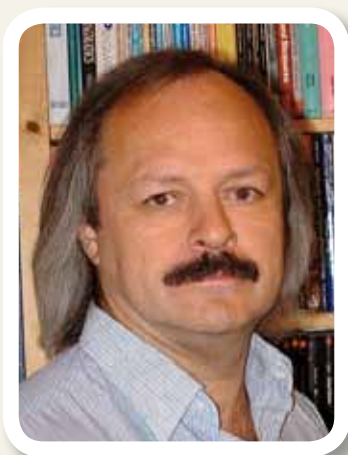


MEET THE AUTHOR

Hello, David. Can you tell us a little about yourself?

Yes, certainly. I was born in Walsall, UK, and after school trained¹ and worked as a teacher in England. In 1977 I left the UK, and since then I have lived in Italy, Serbia and Hungary. I have also worked with students and teachers in 30 other countries around the world. These days I spend my time writing educational books, including original and adapted readers like this one, and training teachers of English. When I'm not working, I play in a blues band and study the natural world and art and architecture. I also read a lot and write short stories and poetry.



Where did you get the idea for this story?

I have always loved birds and the beauty of their flight. One of my oldest hobbies is birdwatching, and I have always thought how wonderful² it would be to be able to fly. The story began by thinking about what flying would be like for a person with wings, and then what problems someone who could fly might have.

What is the message of this story?

The message underneath this story is that people must be allowed to be different, and that we should be happy that there are differences. Differences are what make the world an interesting place. It is also important that we include people who are different, and accept them and make them welcome, while respecting their individuality.

1 train [tren] (v.) 受訓

2 Serbia [ˈsɜːbiə] (n.) 塞爾維亞

3 blues [ˈbluːz] (n.) 爵士音樂；藍調

4 architecture [ˈɑːrkɪtɛktʃə] (n.) 建築

5 poetry [ˈpɔɪtri] (n.) (總稱) 詩


6 hobby [ˈhɒbi] (n.) 興趣；嗜好

7 birdwatching [ˈbɜːdwaʃɪŋ] (n.) 賞鳥

8 underneath [ˌʌndəˈniθ] (prep.) 在表面下的……

9 individuality [ˌɪndɪˌvɪdʒʊˈæləti] (n.) 個性

BEFORE READING

-  **1** There are around 9,700 different kinds of birds in the world today. They are all very different from each other in size, shape, the food they eat, the places they live, and the things they can do. Look at the pictures of these four birds. What do you know about them? How are they different from each other? Discuss with a partner.



a Emperor Penguin



b House Sparrow



c Eagle Owl



d Ostrich

- 2** Answer these questions:

- a** Which bird lives near people?
- b** Which bird runs very fast?
- c** Which bird lives in a cold climate?
- d** Which bird flies at night?
- e** Which bird eats fish?
- f** Which bird eats meat?
- g** Which bird can swim underwater?
- h** Which birds cannot fly?

- 3** Most birds can fly. In order to do this, birds have different bodies from other living creatures. They have very light bones, and very big chest muscles to move their wings up and down. They also have things which other living creatures don't have: wings and feathers. Label these two pictures.



.. _____ ... _____

- 4** People have always wanted to fly. What do you know about the history of human flight? Match the people (a-c) with the actions (1-3).

- 1 Studied flight and made drawings of different kinds of flying machines.
- 2 Made the first manned flight at Kittyhawk in the USA in 1903.
- 3 The father made wings for his son, but he flew too close to the sun, and the wax that held the feathers onto his arms melted, and the son fell into the sea.

_____ a *Daedulus and Icarus*

_____ b *Leonardo da Vinci*

_____ c *Orville and Wilbur Wright*

- 5** Which one of the three sets of people and events above did not really exist?



Going to school



Michael's life changed when he started primary school¹. He started feeling pains² in his back, near his shoulders. Sometimes he couldn't sleep at night because of them. The family doctor examined³ him but he found nothing unusual.

When Michael started his second year at school the pains got much worse, so Sarah took him to see a specialist⁴ at the hospital. The specialist examined him and ordered⁵ x-rays⁶. From the x-rays he could clearly see that some extra⁷ bones were growing out of Michael's shoulders. These bones were pushing against his skin and causing⁸ the pains. The doctor told Sarah to bring him back the following⁹ day, but it was too late.

That night Sarah and George were woken up by shouts from Michael's bedroom. They quickly ran to him and were shocked by what they saw. A large bone was growing out of each of his shoulders!

George called an ambulance, and an hour later Michael was back in the hospital. They x-rayed him again and several specialists examined him. George and Sarah stayed there all night and were able to see him from time to time¹⁰. Between visits, the specialists asked them a lot of questions about Michael. At seven o'clock in the morning a nurse told them to go home.

'What about Michael?' asked George.

'He has to stay here,' the nurse replied.

1 primary school 小學

2 pain [peɪn] (n.) 痛；痛苦

3 examine [ɪgˈzæmɪn] (v.) 檢查；診察

4 specialist [ˈspeʃəlist] (n.) 專科醫生

5 order [ˈɔːdə] (v.) 醫囑

6 x-ray [ˈɛksˈreɪ] (n.) X光

7 extra [ˈɛkstrə] (a.) 額外的

8 cause [kɔːz] (v.) 引起；導致

9 following [ˈfɒləwɪŋ] (a.) 接下來的

10 from time to time 三不五時地