



Blackbirds

Non-fiction
Set 4 Book 4

Text by Gill Munton



Developed by Ruth Miskin



Glossary of terms



Fred Talk: *Fred is a puppet who can only say and read words in pure sounds; he cannot say the whole word. He never adds 'uh' after a consonant sound e.g. fuh, luh, muh. (A slight 'uh' cannot be helped when saying the sounds b, d, g, j, w and y)*

Grapheme: *One letter or one group of letters used to write one sound e.g. The sound 'f' can be written with the grapheme f (fun) ff (huff) ph (photo) The sound 'c' can be written with the grapheme c (cat) or k (key) or ck (clock)*

Green words: *Words made up of the graphemes listed in the sound boxes on page 4*

Red words: *Common words with a grapheme not listed in the sound boxes; e.g. said*

Challenge words: *Topical words particular to this non-fiction text*

Syllables: *Chunks within long words*

Root: *The part of the word that gives the most meaning*

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How to use this book



Follow the advice, in italics, given for you on each page.

Support the children as they read the text that is shaded in cream.

Praise the children at every step!

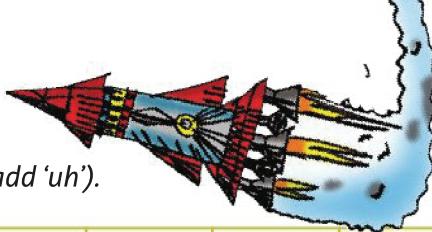
Detailed guidance is provided in the Read Write Inc. Phonics Handbook.

9 reading activities

Children:

- 1 Practise reading the speed sounds.**
- 2 Read the green, red and challenge words for the non-fiction text.**
- 3 Listen as you read the introduction.**
- 4 Discuss the vocabulary check with you.**
- 5 Read the non-fiction text.**
- 6 Re-read the non-fiction text and discuss the ‘questions to talk about’.**
- 7 Re-read the non-fiction text with fluency and expression.**
- 8 Answer the questions to ‘read and answer’.**
- 9 Practise reading the speed words.**

Speed sounds



Consonants Say the pure sounds (do not add 'uh').

f ff	l ll	m mm	n nn	r rr	s ss	v ve	z zz	sh	th	ng nk
---------	----------------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	----	-----------	-----------------

b bb	c k ck	d dd	g gg	h	j	p pp	qu	t tt	w wh	x	y tch
---------	---------------------	---------	---------	---	---	---------	----	---------	---------	---	-----------------

Vowels Say the vowel sound and then the word, eg 'a', 'at'.

at	hen head	in	on	up	day	see happy	high	blow
----	-------------	----	----	----	-----	--------------	------	------

zoo	look	car	for door snore	fair	whirl	shout	boy
-----	------	-----	----------------------	------	-------	-------	-----

Each box contains one sound but sometimes more than one grapheme. Focus graphemes are circled.

Green words

Read in Fred Talk (pure sounds).

d <u>irt</u>	c <u>h</u> ir p	t <u>h</u> ird	f <u>ir</u> st	bl <u>a</u> ck	cr <u>a</u> ck
b <u>owl</u>	l <u>ow</u>	g <u>row</u>	f <u>oo</u> d	h <u>ay</u>	gr <u>a</u> ss
s <u>pring</u>	h <u>atch</u>	b <u>r</u> ight			

Read in syllables.

bl <u>ack</u> ` b <u>ird</u> s	→	bl <u>ack</u> b <u>ird</u> s	song` b <u>ird</u>	→	so <u>ng</u> b <u>ird</u>
yell` <u>ow</u>	→	yell <u>ow</u>	in` <u>sects</u>	→	in <u>sec</u> ts
th <u>irst</u> ` y	→	th <u>irst</u> y	be` <u>tween</u>	→	be <u>twe</u> en

Read the root word first and then with the ending.

pe <u>ck</u>	→	pe <u>cks</u>	fe <u>ed</u>	→	fe <u>eds</u>	grub	→	grubs
drin <u>k</u>	→	drin <u>ks</u>	bro <u>od</u>	→	bro <u>ods</u>	lay	→	lays
drin <u>k</u>	→	drin <u>king</u>	nest	→	nest <u>ing</u>			

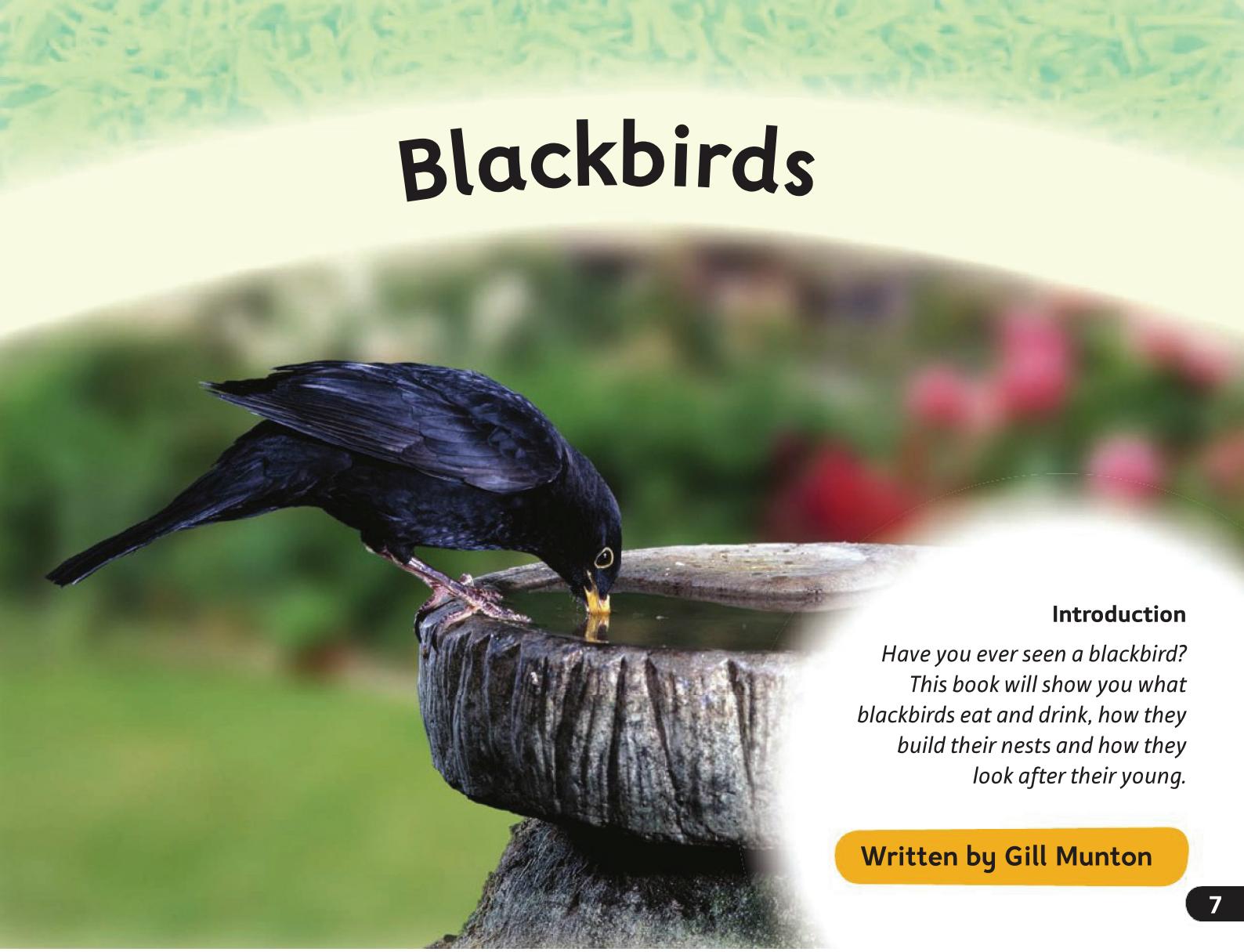
Red words

the he water her she they

Challenge words

female

Blackbirds

A close-up photograph of a blackbird perched on a weathered wooden bird bath. The bird is facing right, its dark feathers contrasting with the bright yellow beak as it drinks from the shallow water. The background is a soft-focus green lawn and some red flowers.

Introduction

Have you ever seen a blackbird?

*This book will show you what
blackbirds eat and drink, how they
build their nests and how they
look after their young.*

Written by Gill Munton

Vocabulary check

Discuss the meaning (as used in the non-fiction text) after the children have read the word.

definition

female

an animal or person who can be a mother

brood

a group of birds that hatch together

bill

a bird's beak

Punctuation to note:

The He *Capital letters that start sentences*

. *Full stop at the end of each sentence*

- *Dash that means the same as the word 'to'*

The blackbird is a British songbird.

He has a bright yellow bill and
black legs and feet.

Chirp, chirp!

bill



Food and drink

He pecks at the dirt and feeds on insects and grubs.



When **he** is thirsty, **he** drinks **water**.



This blackbird is drinking
from a bowl in a garden.

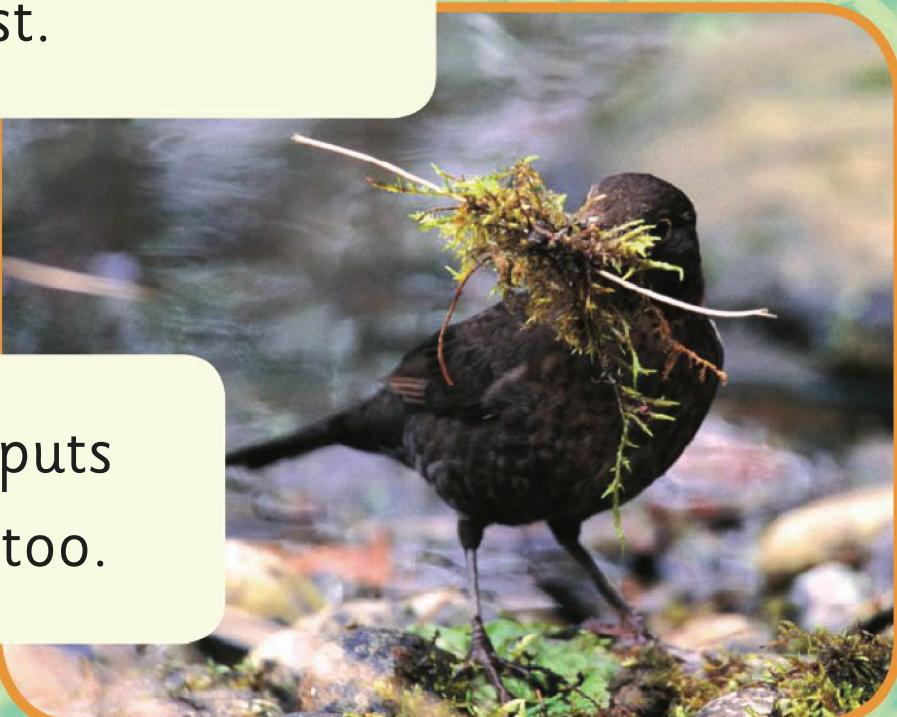
Nesting

The female
blackbird has her
nest in a low tree
or a bush.





First, **she** gets hay, grass and twigs for **the** nest.



Then **she** puts mud in it too.

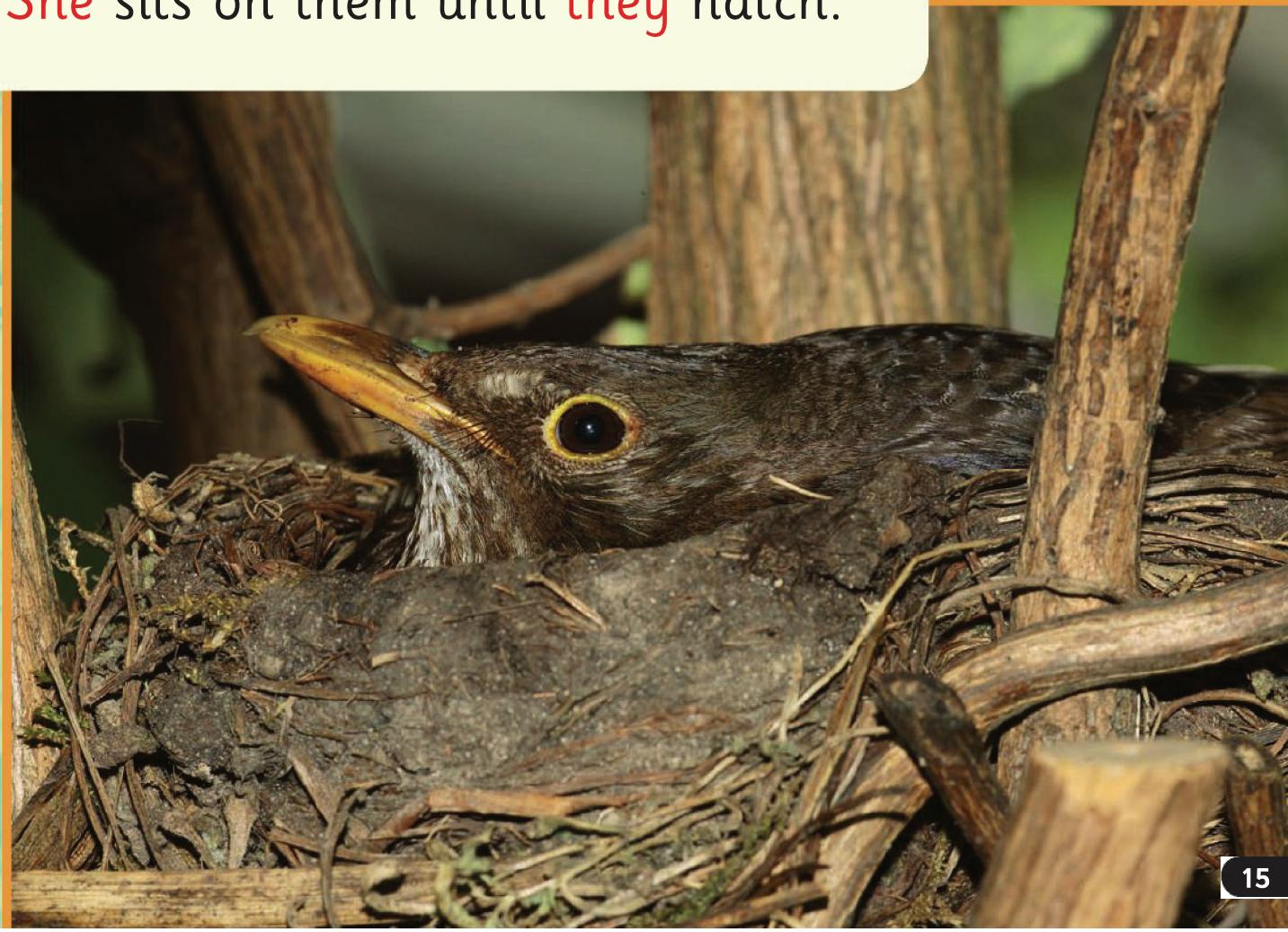
The eggs

The female blackbird has 2–3 broods in the spring.



She lays between 3 and 5 eggs.

She sits on them until **they** hatch.



The chicks

In **the** third week, **the** shells crack and **the** chicks hatch.

The blackbird feeds **the** chicks until **they** grow up.



Questions to talk about



Re-read the page. Read the question to the children. Tell them whether it is a **FIND IT** question or **PROVE IT** question.

FIND IT

- ✓ Turn to the page
- ✓ Read the question
- ✓ Find the answer

PROVE IT

- ✓ Turn to the page
- ✓ Read the question
- ✓ Find your evidence
- ✓ Explain why

Page 9: **FIND IT** What colour is a blackbird's bill?

Page 11: **FIND IT** What does a blackbird drink?

Page 13: **FIND IT** What does the female blackbird get to make her nest?

Page 14: **FIND IT** How many broods does the blackbird have each spring?

Page 14: **PROVE IT** When does the blackbird lay her eggs?

Page 16: **PROVE IT** How long does it take for her eggs to hatch?

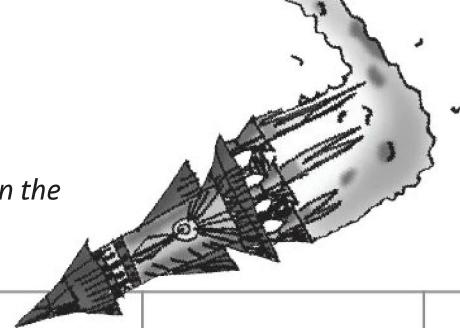
Questions to read and answer ★★

(Children complete without your help.)

- 1 The blackbird is a British **grub** / **songbird** / **insect**.
- 2 The female blackbird has her **bowl** / **nest** / **water** in a low tree or bush.
- 3 She lays between 3 and 5 **twigs** / **eggs** / **nests**.
- 4 She sits on the eggs until they **lay** / **sing** / **hatch**.
- 5 The blackbird **feeds** / **nests** / **drinks** the chicks until they grow up.

Speed words

Children practise reading the words across the rows, down the columns and in and out of order clearly and quickly.



blackbirds	they	bill	she	thirsty
garden	insects	spring	bowl	chicks
shells	dirt	water	third	yellow
first	hatch	songbird	pecks	eggs



Blackbirds

Set 4: Orange Non-fiction

- 1 Jam tarts
- 2 Horses
- 3 Up in the air
- 4 Blackbirds
- 5 Jim's house in 1874



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