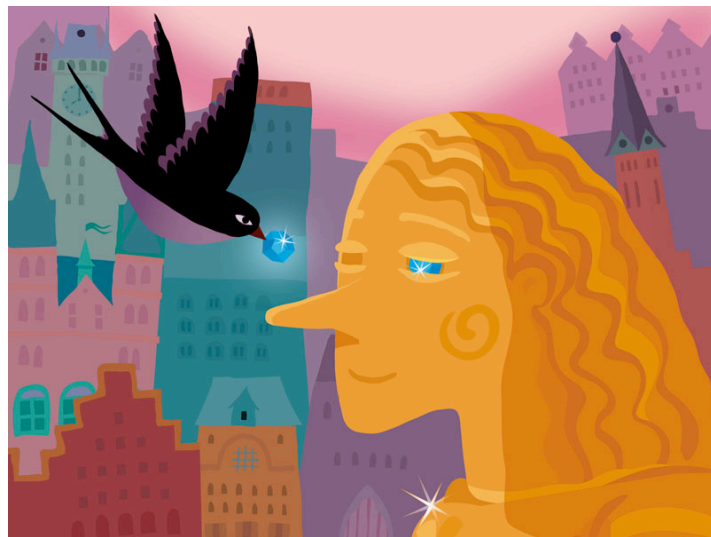


STORY GUIDE

The Happy Prince

Original story by: Oscar Wilde

Read by: Arthur Roberts



morals and themes

Caring, Friendship, Death and Dying

general comprehension questions

- Where does the story take place?
- Who are the characters?
- Who is your favorite character and why?
- Which character don't you like and why?
- What are the problems the characters face?
- How do they solve these problems?
- How does the story end?
- What lesson does this story teach you?

discussion questions

- What does the word "compassion" mean? How did the Happy Prince show compassion?
- Why did the swallow decide not to go south with the other birds? Do you think this was a wise decision?
- What made the Happy Prince and the swallow such good friends?
- Why do you think the Happy Prince gave away his jewels and gold for the citizens of the town? Do you think this was noble?
- The story ends very sadly. Why do you think the author decided to do this? Can you think of a happier ending the author could have used?

extension questions

- What other stories does this remind you of?
- How does this story relate to your own life?
- Write an alternate ending for the story.
- Write your own version of what happens next.

research activity

Use the internet or library to research statues.

- What are some famous statues around the world?
- Are there any statues in your town?
- Do you like statues? Why or why not?

notes on this story

Oscar Wilde's The Happy Prince is intended for an older audience since it deals with death. The story is a good way to teach children about caring for others and sacrificing one's self for your friends and family. Follow-up activities for this story should focus on practical applications of helping others, like collecting garbage around school, starting a fundraiser, or writing cards to soldiers.