





Which Way is South?

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Let's Read



The Asia Foundation



Brrr.... autumn is here. The winds are cold and strong! It's time for the blue canaries to fly south where it's warmer. It's Little Canary's first time traveling south. The whole flock is going to fly when the sun sets. What if he gets left behind?



Mother says there's no need to worry. As long as he follows her lead, he'll stay with the flock. Mother teaches him a song to guide him in the right direction. Relieved, Little Canary goes back to playing.



It is finally time to fly. Little Canary stays close to his mother. But what is that? Little Canary swerves and chases after it. Just then, Mother calls out. He was almost left behind!



The birds carry on their journey. Hey, what's that? Mmm, those berries look delicious! Mother is busy with Little Canary's brothers and sisters. Perhaps Little Canary can quickly grab a few berries.



Little Canary dives down. These berries are delightful. There are still many more! How wonderful not to have to share with his brothers and sisters.



Little Canary eats until he feels full.
Then, he looks upOh no, where is
his flock? How will he catch up? The
song Mother taught him! He must try
to remember it.



"Fly, fly, to the south we fly. To places warm and cozy. Fly, fly, fly in the sky. To the... to the.....sunset you'll see." To the right? To the left? Which one is it? Little Canary can't remember.



Which way is south? Does the sun set to the right or to the left? The orange hues in the sky begin to fade. Little Canary still can't remember.



Tired, he floats with the wind. He remembers that there's still more to the song, but he can't remember the words. Wait, what's that place he sees? Maybe he'll find his family there?



Just then the winds slow down. This place is so bright! This must be a town. Little Canary tries harder to remember the song. Finally, he remembers it. Yay!



"And when it gets a little too dark, the Little Bear will make its mark. Fly away from its shimmering tail. Fly on south you will not fail." Little Canary needs to find Little Bear in the sky. Then he has to fly away from the end of the bear's tail!



But, oh... the glare! Little Canary
can't see the Little Bear. He can't see
anything in the sky!



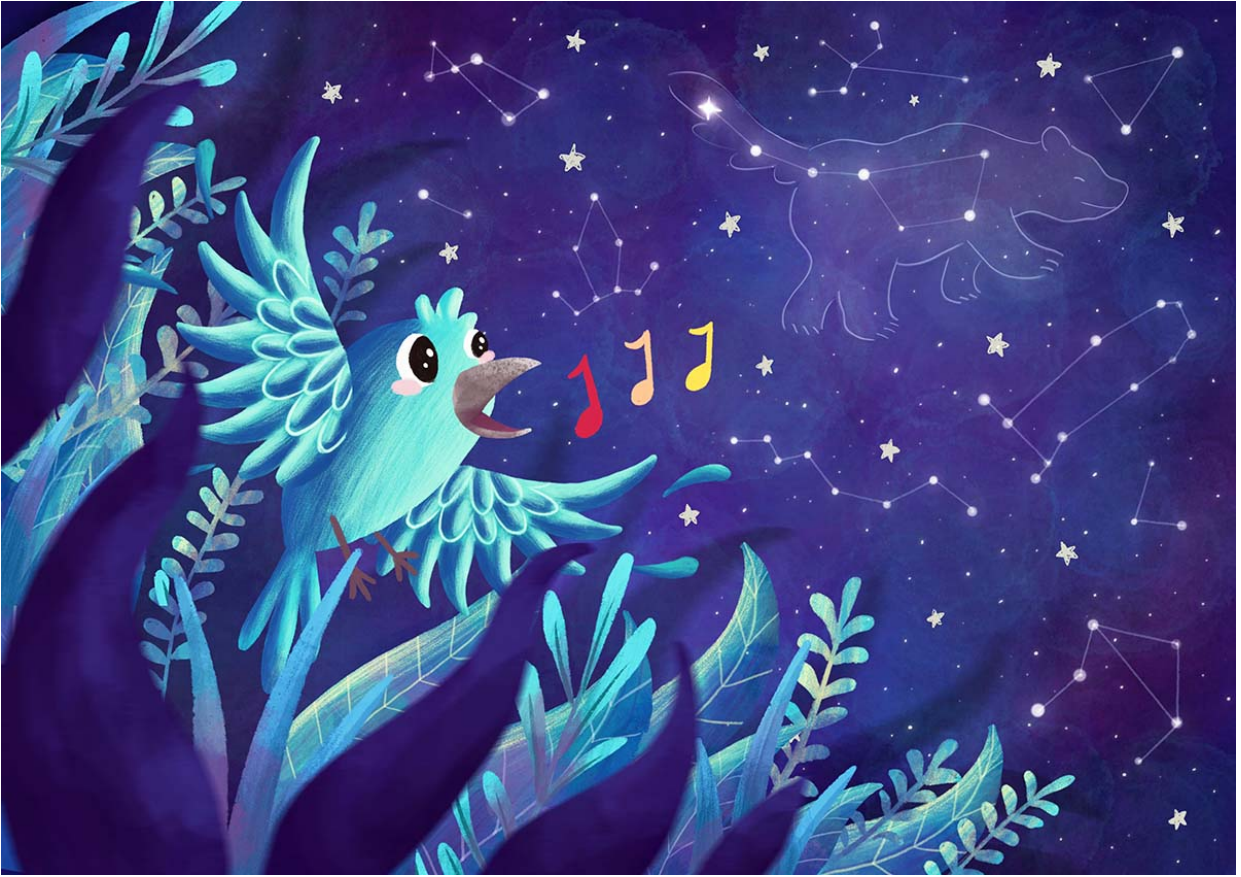
Where is the Little Bear? Which way is south? He's never going to see his mother again. He's also going to freeze in this place.



Maybe it's warmer among the leaves.
Just then, he hears a rustle just above
him. What is it? Is it the wind?
Another bird? Or ... a snake?



Oh, it's only the wind. But what is that past the leaves? It's the Little Bear! Now, all he has to do is to fly away from the end of its tail.



Little Canary flaps his wings as hard as he can. He's sure he'll catch up with his flock!



Listen! That chirping sounds familiar.
It's his flock!



The flock of blue canaries continues their journey, singing, "Fly, fly, to the south we fly, to places warm and cozy. Fly, fly, fly in the sky, to the right the sunset you'll see. And when it gets a little too dark, the Little Bear will make its mark. Fly away from its

shimmering tail. Fly on south you will not fail."



Indigo bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) or the blue canary, are birds that live in eastern United States and southern Canada. Male birds have bright blue feathers, and the females are brown. In the winter, the males lose their blue plumage and resemble the brown females, although a little bit of blue remains. Every autumn, the birds migrate to Mexico and to southern United States. They navigate with the rotation of the Polaris star of the Ursa Minor constellation (also known as Little Bear). Polaris lies at the end of the bear's tail and is also known as the North Pole Star. It indicates the direction to the north pole and is

always seen in the northern hemisphere. Light pollution from excessive artificial light in urban areas, makes it hard to see stars in the sky at night. This has a negative impact on nature, including obstructing bird migration. It is also evidence of electric energy waste.

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