



Science

▶ *The Missing Bird*



by Sarah Moore

illustrated by Jiri Tibor Novak

 **Harcourt**
SCHOOL PUBLISHERS

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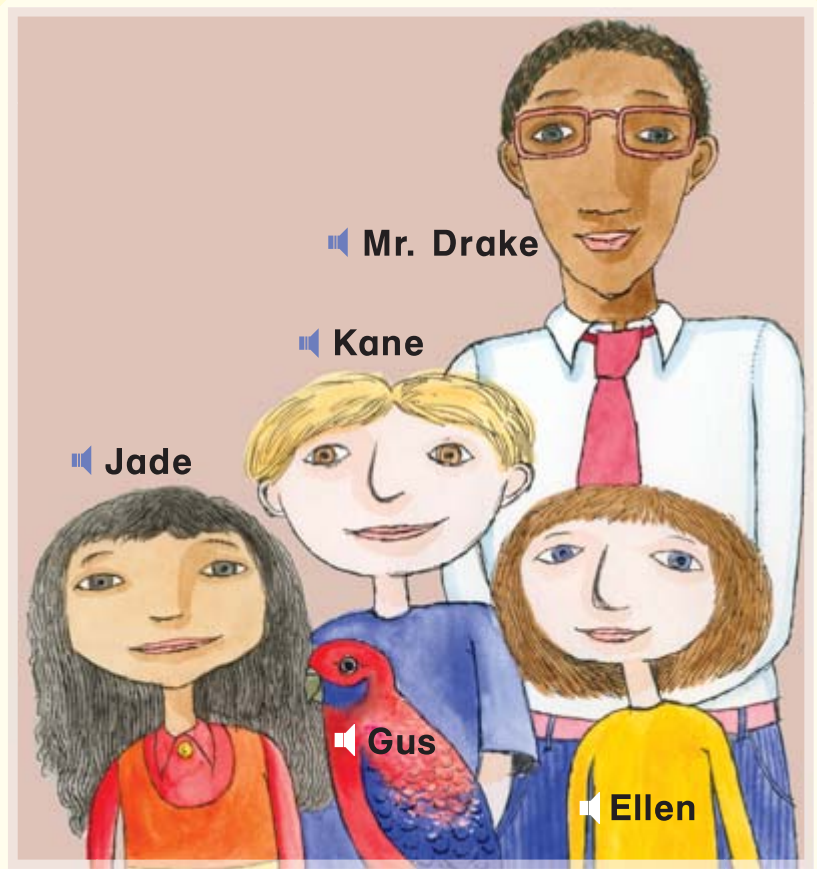
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▮ **Characters:** Jade
Kane
Ellen
Mr. Drake
Gus



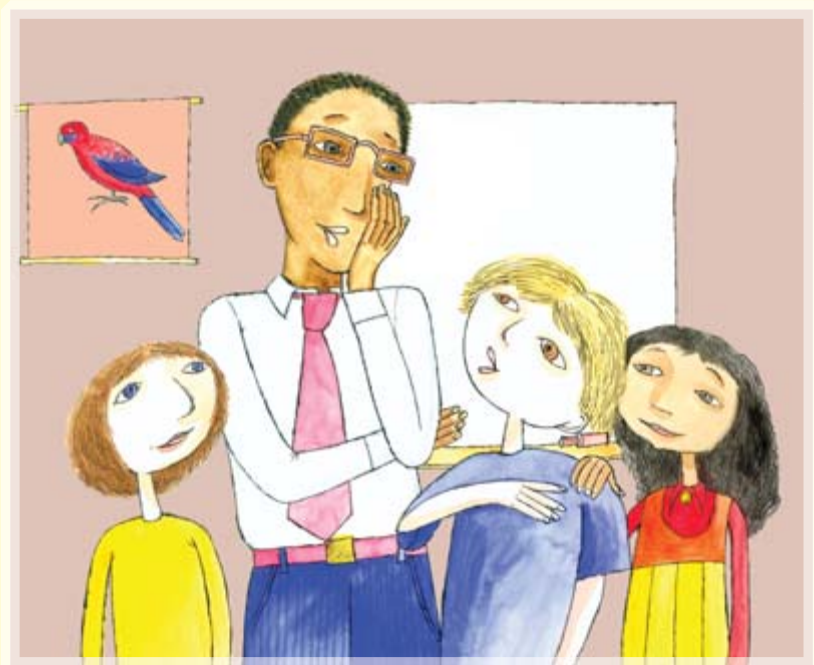
- ❏ **Narrator:** One day, Jade went to feed Gus, the class bird.
- ❏ **Jade:** Oh, no! Gus is gone. He is not on his perch.
- ❏ **Kane:** Gus is always in his cage.
- ❏ **Jade:** Look, the cage door is open.
- ❏ **Narrator:** The children are gathered near the cage.





- ▶ **Kane:** How are we going to find him?
- ▶ **Jade:** I know! Let's all chirp like a bird.
- ▶ **Ellen:** Yes, when Gus hears us, he might come.
- ▶ **All:** Chirp, chirp, chirp!





- ▶ **Mr. Drake:** How come you are all chirping?
- ▶ **Jade:** We're looking for Gus. He is missing.
- ▶ **Kane:** All this chirping is making me tired.
- ▶ **Ellen:** I could shake the bell in his cage.



- **Kane:** Yes, when Gus hears the bell ring, he might come.
- **Narrator:** Ellen shakes the bell, and they all look around for Gus.
- **Ellen:** Gus might like some food to eat.
- **Jade:** I have an apple in my bag.
- **Mr. Drake:** That might get Gus to come back.



- 🔊 **Narrator:** Jade goes out and comes back with an apple.
- 🔊 **Kane:** Gus would like to eat that apple—and so would I!
- 🔊 **Mr. Drake:** Let's put bits of apple by the cage for Gus.
- 🔊 **Kane:** He likes apples. He will come to eat it.





- ▶ **Narrator:** Jade puts bits of apple by the cage. Just then, they see Gus fly out from the top of the bookshelf.
- ▶ **Ellen:** Look! We have found Gus.
- ▶ **Narrator:** Gus pecks at the apple with his beak.
- ▶ **All:** We're glad Gus likes apples!

Think Critically

1. What problem did Mr. Drake and the children have and how was it solved?
2. How do you think Jade felt when she discovered Gus was missing?
3. Why do you think Gus didn't come back when the children were walking around chirping?
4. What else could the children have done to find Gus?
5. What tells you that this story is a play?

Science

Draw and Label Draw a picture of a bird. Label the main parts of the bird.

- School-Home Connection** Show a family member the cover of *The Missing Bird*. Ask them to tell you what they think the story is about. Then tell them what happens to Gus in the story.

Word Count: 253 (259 with words in graphic)