

The Word Bird

A National Poetry Day
resource from Sally Crabtree

Key Stages 1-2

#NationalPoetryDay
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The Word Bird

In the beginning nothing was heard
All was silent, not a word
'til the word Bird sang
And the world began

She sang the rivers, she sang the streams
She sang the sky and she sang your dreams
Oh the word bird sang
And the world began..

She sang the sunlight, she sang the hours
She sang the rainbows, she sang the flowers
Oh the word bird sang
And the world began..

She sang the meadows, she sang the trees
She sang the hills, she sang the leaves
Oh the word bird sang
And the world began..

She sang horizons, she sang deep seas
She sang the shore, she sang the breeze
Oh the word bird sang
And the world began..

She sang the evening, she sang twilight
She sang the moonshine, she sang the night
Oh the word bird sang
And the world began..

She sang the wonder, she sang the stars
She sang all creatures in this world of ours
Oh the word bird sang
And the world began

She sang the love and the feeling that starts
Of happiness deep in the well of our hearts

Oh the word bird sang
And the world began
The world began
when the word bird sang.



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ADAPTING 'THE WORD BIRD'

'The Word Bird' is the prologue to my book *The Poetree and the Word Bird*. It is a poem about a Word Bird singing the world into existence. It is a poem that is easy for children of all ages to adapt. It is a very quick and easy poem for the whole class to write, yet touches upon quite a deep theme i.e. that of creation.

Keep the rhyming lines in as they are, and fill in the other two lines.

Be as imaginative as possible.

There are no wrong answers.

What will your bird sing into existence?



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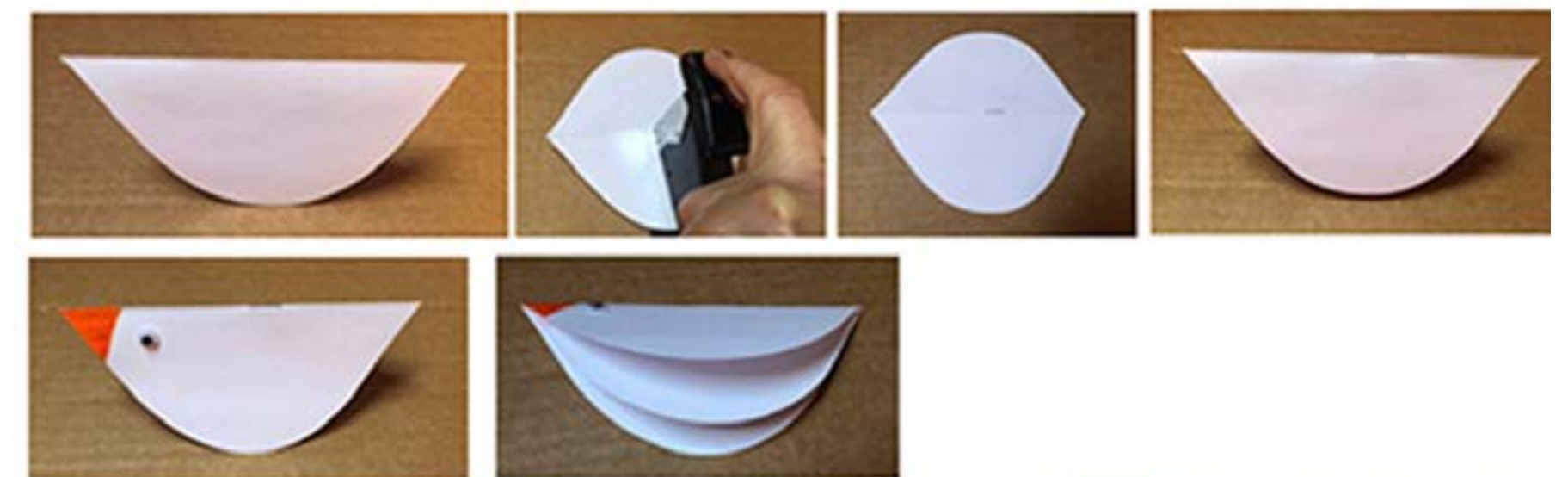
MAKE A WORD BIRD BOOK

A Word Bird book can 'house' little ditties or short poems or can even contain all your favourite words. This is the easiest book in the world to make and it only takes a couple of minutes.

You will need:

- Scissors
- 1 sheet of A4 paper
- Stapler
- Pencil
- Black felt tip pen or stick-on googly eye.
- Orange/yellow scrap of card or orange/yellow felt tip pen.

1. Fold your paper in half so that you have an A5 size.
2. Then fold that in half again so that you have an A6 size.
3. With the fold running horizontally along the top draw a bird shape as shown on images attached.
4. Cut out.
5. Staple pages together (or sew if you get the urge!)
6. Colour in the beak or stick on a beak shaped piece of orange card and add an eye.



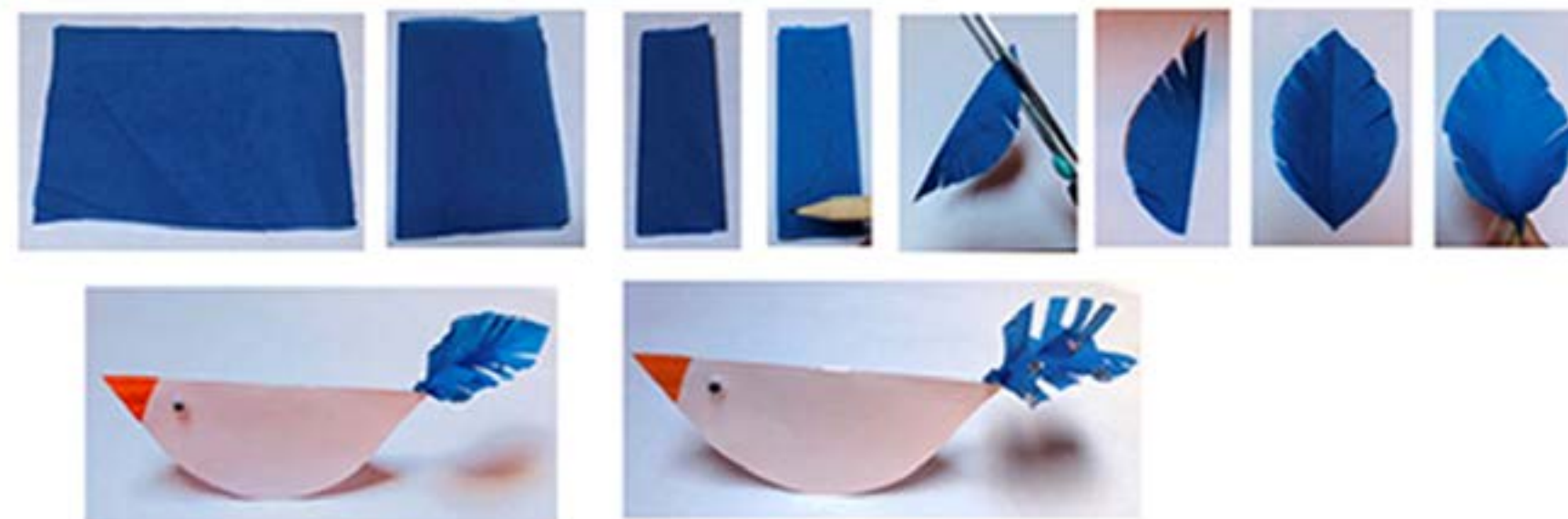
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MAKE A WORD BIRD BOOK CONTINUED

You can embellish the birds of course in any way you like. Because feathers can be fiddly and difficult to stick on to paper and card unless you have super power glue, I often use tissue paper to make feathers. All you need to do is:

1. Fold an A6 piece of tissue paper in half and then again longways (see pic below)
2. Draw on and cut out half a leaf shape as shown.
3. Then snip, snip, snip down the curve not quite to the middle and then open out and 'fluff' out.
4. You can add on other glittery things and if you have more time you can also decorate the body of the birds of course.



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WORD BIRD SEED

One further idea that I do with the concept of Word Birds is to sprinkle a word out of birdseed for the birds each morning. Please see the [short Word Bird Theatre film](#) to see how this concept might inspire a love of playing with words in you.

During NPD I will be creating a daily word out of bird seed for the birds and hoping that others around the country will join me to create a poem that can be danced in the sky by the birds.





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Your words. Your voice. Your work.

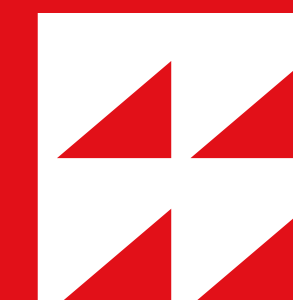
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