



Bird Brothers

A Delhi Story



Teacher Guide

Author: Rina Singh

Illustrator: Barkha Lohia

This touching picture book is based on the real-life efforts of brothers Nadeem Shehzad and Mohammad Saud who have devoted their lives to rescuing and rehabilitating black kite raptors that have been injured by glass-coated kite strings and the dense air pollution in Delhi. They help the birds return to the sky.



About the author

Rina Singh is an award-winning author of children's books whose storytelling is fueled by a deep curiosity about the world. Inspired by real-life stories of resilience, social justice and the environment, her books empower young readers to dream big and act boldly—just like the brothers in this story did. Her work has been translated into multiple languages and has received starred reviews from *Kirkus Reviews*, *Publishers Weekly*, *School Library Journal* and *Booklist*. *Grandmother School* won the Christie Harris Illustrated Children's Literature Prize; *Diwali: A Festival of Lights* was nominated for the Red Cedar Award; and *Once, a Bird* was selected for IBBY Canada's Silent Books Collection.



About the illustrator

Barkha Lohia is an illustrator and visual artist who brings stories to life through her artwork—whether in picture books, editorials or prints. She is a recipient of a Binod Kanoria Illustration Award for *A Tree of My Own*, and she has illustrated books like *So Many Leaves* and *Let's Talk About Trees*. Barkha's work delves into the unseen connections between humans and nature, inviting deeper reflection and a sense of wonder. When she's not creating, she's out in the wild—clicking, sketching and drawing inspiration from the world around her.

Learning Objectives

1. **Literacy and Language:** Explore narrative structure, descriptive language and themes of environmental stewardship.
2. **Social Studies:** Understand cultural traditions and human impact on urban wildlife.
3. **Science:** Learn about ecosystems, black kites and the impact of human activity on bird populations.
4. **Empathy and Action:** Foster compassion for animals and inspire students to take small steps toward helping the environment.



ORCA BOOK PUBLISHERS
Reaching More Readers
 orcabook.com • 1-800-210-5277

Pre-Reading Activities

1. Discussion:

- Show students a picture of a black kite. Discuss its role as a scavenger and how it helps the environment.
- Ask: What do you think it means to rescue an animal? Why might someone dedicate their life to this work?

2. Vocabulary: Introduce and discuss key terms from the book, such as:

- Raptors
- Manja
- Aviary
- Tendons
- Scavenger

3. Cultural Context:

- Locate Delhi, India, on a map.
- Explain what kite flying is and note that it is a popular tradition during festivals like Makar Sankranti.

During Reading

1. Comprehension Questions:

- Why did the brothers' father feed the kites?
- How does manja harm the black kites?
- What challenges did the brothers face when trying to save injured birds?

2. Visual Literacy:

- Analyze Barkha Lohia's illustrations. How do the images convey the emotions of the brothers and the black kites?

Post-Reading Activities

1. Discussion:

- Why is it important to protect birds like black kites?
- How do the brothers show persistence and compassion in their work?
- What lessons can we learn from their story about helping the environment?

2. Art and Writing:

- Poster Design: Create a poster raising awareness about the dangers of manja to birds.
- Reflective Writing: Write a letter to Nadeem and Saud thanking them for their work and sharing what inspired you most about their story.

3. STEM Connection:

- Research black kites: What do they eat? Where do they live? Why are they important to the ecosystem?
- Experiment: Build a simple paper kite and discuss safe materials that don't harm wildlife.

4. Empathy Activity:

- Role-play: Imagine you find an injured bird. Discuss or act out what steps you would take to help it.



ORCA BOOK PUBLISHERS

Reaching More Readers

orcabook.com • 1-800-210-5277

Extensions

1. **Social Studies:**
 - Learn about other environmental challenges in urban areas and brainstorm solutions.
2. **Watch and Discuss:**
 - Watch the documentary *All That Breathes*. Discuss the connections between the book and the documentary.
3. **Service Project:**
 - Organize a school project to clean up litter or create bird feeders to support local wildlife.

Key Themes and Questions for Exploration

1. **Resilience and Innovation:** How do Nadeem and Saud's actions inspire us to overcome challenges?
2. **Human Impact on Wildlife:** How do human traditions and actions affect animals, and what can we do to mitigate harm?
3. **Compassion and Responsibility:** Why is it important to care for animals, even those that some might overlook, like scavenger birds?

Additional Resources

Videos: Clips from the Oscar nominated documentary, *All That Breathes* directed by Shaunak Sen.



ORCA BOOK PUBLISHERS
Reaching More Readers
orcabook.com • 1-800-210-5277