

Rainbow Street



by Lynne Rickards and Marie-Rose Boisson

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FRANKLIN WATTS
LONDON•SYDNEY

Chapter 1

Samir woke up early. It was a bright, sunny morning on Rainbow Street, but his brother Ali was still sound asleep. Samir went to open the window, as he did every morning, to greet the birds.

"Good morning, little birds," he said to the sparrows outside, holding some food out to them. One of the little sparrows was very brave and hopped up on to his hand.

Samir loved birds. He thought they were the most beautiful creatures in the world.



Samir quickly woke his brother Ali.

The boys ate their breakfast in

the kitchen with Gran.

"Hurry up now," she said,

"the school bus will be here soon."

"Samir is the slow one," Ali teased.

"He's the reason we're always late. He has to

make sure all the birds get their breakfast."

"They're hungry in the morning, too," said Samir.

"They want breakfast, just like us."



The boys grabbed their school bags and raced down the stairs. The yellow bus was waiting at the bottom of Rainbow Street. They had to hurry. It wouldn't wait forever!

Samir flapped his arms and flew like a bird down the last two steps.

"I wish I had real wings," he said.

"Then I would fly to school and never be late."



Things to think about

1. How does Samir show that he likes birds?
2. What characteristics would you use to describe Samir?
3. What do you discover about Samir's daily life in Rainbow Street? How does it compare to where you live?
4. What does Gran do to surprise Samir?
5. How do you think Samir feels at the end of the story?

Write it yourself

One of the themes in this story is discovering what inspires you. Now try to write your own story with a similar theme.

Plan your story before you begin to write it.
Start off with a story map:

- a beginning to introduce the characters and where your story is set (the setting);
- a problem which the main characters will need to fix in the story;
- an ending where the problems are resolved.

Get writing! Try to use interesting descriptions with alliteration such as “pastel pink sky" to describe your story world and excite your reader.

Notes for parents and carers

Independent reading

The aim of independent reading is to read this book with ease. This series is designed to provide an opportunity for your child to read for pleasure and enjoyment. These notes are written for you to help your child make the most of this book.

About the book

Samir and his brother Ali live in a vibrant place known as Rainbow Street, in Amman, Jordan. Samir loves all things to do with birds and is desperate to own a falcon one day. His Gran has an idea that will help Samir's dream come true, at least in part, when she finds a kite in the shape of a falcon.

Before reading

Ask your child why they have selected this book. Look at the title and blurb together. What do they think it will be about? Do they think they will like it?

During reading

Encourage your child to read independently. If they get stuck on a longer word, remind them that they can find syllable chunks that can be sounded out from left to right. They can also read on in the sentence and think about what would make sense.

After reading

Support comprehension by talking about the story. What happened?
Then help your child think about the messages in the book that go beyond the story, using the questions on the page opposite. Give your child a chance to respond to the story, asking:
Did you enjoy the story and why?
Who was your favourite character?

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Series Advisors: Dr Sue Bodman and Glen Franklin
Series Designer: Peter Scoulding

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