

The Boy Who Talked to Animals

A Fleydo English School Story

A2 Level | Kids (6-10) | Reading | Story | 14 Pages

Oliver is a quiet boy who feels more comfortable with animals than with people. One morning, he discovers he can understand every animal around him. A sparrow asks for help, a lost baby deer needs its mother, and a trapped dolphin calls for rescue. Through these adventures, Oliver learns that the greatest gift is not talking — it is listening.

Learning Objectives

- Read and understand an A2-level adventure story (14 pages)
- Learn 15 new vocabulary words in context
- Practise vocabulary with matching and fill-in-the-blank exercises
- Test reading comprehension with 10 multiple-choice questions
- Discuss themes: kindness to animals, listening, and empathy

1 Read the Story

Chapter 1: The Quietest Boy in Town

Oliver was the quietest boy in the whole town. He was ten years old, with brown hair that always fell over his eyes and a shy smile that he kept mostly to himself. While other children played loudly in the playground, Oliver sat alone under the old oak tree, watching the birds.

Oliver was not unhappy. He simply felt more comfortable with animals than with people. He knew the name of every bird in his garden. He left food out for the hedgehogs at night. He talked to the neighbour's cat, Whiskers, every morning on his way to school.

"Oliver, why don't you play with the other children?" his mother asked every day.

"I do play," Oliver said. "Just... with different friends." And he pointed at the robin sitting on the garden fence.

His mother sighed. She loved Oliver very much, but she worried that he was too lonely. She did not know that Oliver was about to discover something that would change his life forever.

Chapter 2: The Morning Everything Changed

It happened on a Tuesday morning in May. Oliver woke up and heard something strange. A tiny voice was coming from outside his bedroom window.

"Help! Somebody please help me!"

Oliver sat up in bed. He walked to the window and opened it. Sitting on the window ledge was a small brown sparrow. The bird looked directly at Oliver with its bright black eyes.

"Oh, thank goodness!" the sparrow said. "You can hear me! I've been calling for hours but no human ever listens!"

Oliver's mouth fell open. He understood every single word the sparrow said. Not just chirps and tweets — actual words. A bird was talking to him, and he could understand it perfectly.

Oliver ran downstairs and into the garden. The world sounded completely different. The robin on the fence was singing, "Beautiful morning! Worms are fresh today!" Two squirrels in the tree were arguing: "That's MY acorn!" "No, I found it first!"

Whiskers the cat strolled over. "About time you could understand me," Whiskers said calmly. "I've been trying to tell you for years that I prefer tuna, not chicken."

Oliver laughed out loud. He could understand every creature around him!

But then the sparrow landed on his shoulder. Her voice was serious. "Oliver, I need your help. My baby has fallen from the nest. She's on the ground in the park, and she's too young to fly. If someone doesn't help her soon, the cats will find her."

Oliver didn't hesitate. "Show me where she is."

Chapter 3: The Sparrow's Problem

Oliver followed the sparrow to the park. Behind the rose bushes, sitting in the grass, was the tiniest bird Oliver had ever seen. She was fluffy and brown, with a bright orange beak. She was frightened and shaking.

"Mama! Mama! Where are you?" the baby bird cried.

Oliver knelt down very slowly. He knew he had to be gentle. "Hello, little one. I'm going to pick you up very carefully and put you back in your nest. Is that okay?"

The baby bird looked up at him with round, trusting eyes. "Promise you won't squeeze too hard?"

"I promise," Oliver said, smiling.

Oliver cupped his hands together and gently lifted the baby bird. She was so light, like holding a ball of warm cotton. He could feel her tiny heart beating fast.

He climbed the tree carefully and placed the baby bird back in the nest. The mother sparrow wrapped her wings around all three of her babies.

"Thank you, Oliver. You saved my daughter's life. I will never forget this."

Oliver climbed down, feeling warm inside. But his day was far from over. As he walked through the park, a deer approached him from the edge of the forest.

"Human boy," the deer said. "Please. I need your help. My baby is lost."

Chapter 4: The Lost Fawn

The deer's name was Hazel. Her fawn — a baby deer named Pip — had wandered away while she was drinking from the stream.

"He's only three weeks old," Hazel said, her voice shaking. "There are foxes, and the river is high because of the rain."

Oliver asked the sparrow to fly above the forest and look for Pip. After ten minutes, she came back. "He's by the old stone bridge. But the river is very high. He's standing on a rock in the middle of the water. He's trapped."

Oliver and Hazel ran to the bridge. Pip was on a flat rock in the rushing river, his legs shaking. Oliver crossed the stepping stones carefully, picked up the trembling fawn, and carried him back to safety.

Hazel rushed forward and licked her baby's face. "Thank you, brave human. You are a true friend to the forest."

Chapter 5: The Dolphin's Call

On his way home, Oliver walked past the harbour. He heard a sound from the water, deep and sad. A young dolphin was tangled in an old fishing net. She could not move or breathe properly.

“Hold on!” Oliver shouted. He jumped into the water. A fisherman saw him and brought a knife to cut the net. Together, they freed the dolphin.

The dolphin swam in a circle, stretching her fins. “Thank you. You rescued me. I thought nobody would come.”

“I heard you calling,” Oliver said.

“You have a gift, young human. The ability to hear us. Please — never stop listening.” Then she leaped three times and disappeared into the blue sea.

Chapter 6: The Gift of Listening

That evening, Oliver sat in his garden. Whiskers sat on his lap. The sparrow sat on his shoulder.

“Do you know WHY you can understand us?” the sparrow asked. “You didn’t suddenly get a new power this morning. You’ve always had it. Today, for the first time, you truly listened. Not just with your ears — with your heart.”

“Most humans hear sounds but don’t listen. They hear birds singing but don’t wonder what the song means. You are different, Oliver. You pay attention. You care. And that is the real gift — not talking to animals, but listening to the world around you.”

Chapter 7: A New Friend

The next day at school, Oliver noticed a girl sitting alone under the oak tree. She was new, with red hair and glasses, holding a book about animals. She looked sad and lonely.

Before today, Oliver would have walked past. But the sparrow’s words echoed in his head: “The real gift is listening.”

Oliver walked over and sat down. “Hi. I’m Oliver. Is that a book about animals?”

The girl looked surprised. “Yes. I love animals. My name is Emma. I just moved here and I don’t know anyone.”

Oliver listened. Really listened. Emma told him about her old town, her pet rabbit, her favourite animals. By the end of lunch, Emma was smiling.

“You’re a really good listener, Oliver. Nobody ever listens to me like that.”

Oliver smiled back. The sparrow was right. Listening was the greatest gift of all.

The End

The world is always talking. You just have to listen.

The greatest gift is not talking — it is listening with your heart.

2 Key Vocabulary

These words from the story will help you improve your English.

Word	Type	Definition	Example
shy	<i>adj</i>	nervous and uncomfortable around others	<i>Oliver was a shy, quiet boy.</i>
creature	<i>noun</i>	any living animal or being	<i>He could understand every creature.</i>
whispered	<i>verb</i>	spoke very quietly	<i>Oliver whispered to the baby bird.</i>
understood	<i>verb</i>	knew the meaning of what was said	<i>He understood every word the sparrow said.</i>
nest	<i>noun</i>	a bird's home for eggs and babies	<i>The baby bird fell from its nest.</i>
gentle	<i>adj</i>	soft, kind, and careful	<i>Oliver was very gentle with the bird.</i>
fawn	<i>noun</i>	a baby deer with white spots	<i>The fawn was trapped on a rock.</i>
trapped	<i>adj</i>	stuck and unable to get out	<i>The dolphin was trapped in a net.</i>
harbour	<i>noun</i>	where boats are kept	<i>Oliver ran to the harbour to help.</i>
rescued	<i>verb</i>	saved from danger	<i>Oliver rescued the dolphin.</i>
gift	<i>noun</i>	a special ability or talent	<i>Listening was Oliver's real gift.</i>
approached	<i>verb</i>	came closer to someone	<i>A deer approached Oliver in the park.</i>
frightened	<i>adj</i>	feeling afraid or scared	<i>The baby bird was frightened.</i>
grateful	<i>adj</i>	feeling thankful	<i>The deer was grateful for Oliver's help.</i>
listened	<i>verb</i>	paid careful attention	<i>Oliver listened with his heart.</i>

3 Fill in the Blanks

Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

1. Oliver was a _____ boy who felt more comfortable with animals than with people.
2. The baby bird had fallen from its _____ in the tall tree.
3. Oliver was very _____ when he picked up the baby bird.
4. The baby deer, called a _____, was standing on a rock in the river.
5. The dolphin was _____ in an old fishing net and could not move.
6. Oliver jumped into the water at the _____ to save the dolphin.
7. Oliver _____ the dolphin by cutting the net with the fisherman.
8. The deer was _____ for Oliver's help in finding her baby.
9. The sparrow said Oliver's real _____ was not talking but listening.
10. Oliver _____ carefully to Emma and they became friends.

Answer Key:

1. shy
2. nest
3. gentle
4. fawn
5. trapped
6. harbour
7. rescued
8. grateful
9. gift
10. listened

4 Comprehension Quiz

Choose the correct answer for each question.

Question 1. What kind of boy was Oliver?

- A. Loud and popular
- B. Shy and quiet
- C. Angry and mean
- D. Funny and silly

Question 2. What happened on Tuesday morning?

- A. He got a new pet
- B. He could suddenly understand animals
- C. He learned to fly
- D. He became invisible

Question 3. Why did the sparrow come to Oliver's window?

- A. She was hungry
- B. She wanted to sing
- C. Her baby had fallen from the nest
- D. She was lost

Question 4. How did Oliver help the baby bird?

- A. He called a vet
- B. He climbed the tree and put her back
- C. He built a new nest
- D. He took her home

Question 5. Why was the fawn trapped?

- A. In a cage
- B. On a rock in the rising river
- C. Under a fallen tree
- D. In a hole

Question 6. Who helped Oliver free the dolphin?

- A. His mother
- B. A fisherman
- C. The sparrow
- D. Emma

Question 7. What did the dolphin ask Oliver to do?

- A. Visit every day
- B. Never stop listening
- C. Swim better
- D. Become a fisherman

Question 8. What was Oliver's REAL gift?

- A. Talking to animals
- B. Being strong
- C. Listening with his heart
- D. Climbing trees

Question 9. Who was Emma?

- A. Oliver's sister
- B. A new shy girl at school
- C. A teacher
- D. A book character

Question 10. What is the main lesson?

- A. Animals are dangerous
- B. Talking is most important
- C. The greatest gift is listening and caring
- D. Boys should not be shy

5 Quiz Answer Key

Q	Correct Answer
1	B. Shy and quiet
2	B. He could suddenly understand animals
3	C. Her baby had fallen from the nest
4	B. He climbed the tree and put her back
5	B. On a rock in the rising river
6	B. A fisherman
7	B. Never stop listening
8	C. Listening with his heart
9	B. A new shy girl at school
10	C. The greatest gift is listening and caring