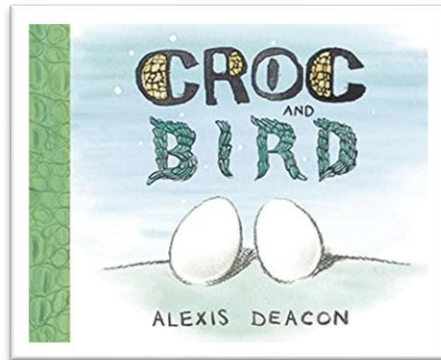


# Read for Pleasure

## Croc and Bird

By Alex Deacon



Side by side on the sand sit two eggs.  
When they hatch, with a crack and a rip,  
out come a bird... and a crocodile.

But a bird and a crocodile can't be  
brothers – can they?



### Title Talk

*The title of this story is: Croc and Bird.*

- What is 'Croc' short for? Why do you think this was chosen over 'crocodile'?
- Why might pairing up a Croc and a Bird be considered odd? Discuss.
- What might this suggest about how the story A] will start, B] develop and C] end?
- What themes might this story consider? Why do you think this?

### Cover Chat

*Now look at the cover of this picture book.*

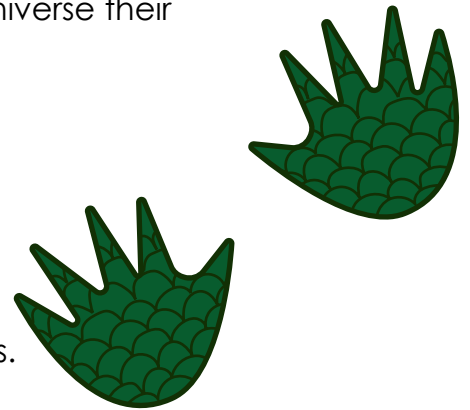
- How does the illustrator emphasise the differences between Croc and Bird?
- Interestingly, you might well consider (and do so for natural reasons) that Croc would be placed beneath Bird in the title, and yet this is not the case. Why do you think this decision was made?
- Which egg is Croc and which is Bird? Is it important that we cannot tell? Why?
- What else do you notice about the two eggs? Why might they be doing this?

### **Page 1-2**

- Here we see the same two eggs observed on the front cover. Again, they sit side by side and lean towards each other. Why might this be?
- Only the eggs can be seen, the vastness of the universe their backdrop. Might this be significant?

### **Page 3-4**

- Which of the two eggs hatches first?
- After both eggs have hatched, who speaks first?
- What does Bird say? Why is this significant? Discuss.
- How does Croc reply?
- How does this make us feel? Why might we feel this way?



Remember: Crocodiles are carnivores and would eat the bird in normal circumstances.

- Bird is not scared and does not perceive Croc as a threat. He views him as family, as his BROTHER. Why might this be when they look so different from one another? Discuss.

### **Page 5-6**

- Bird uses his instincts to try and help both himself and Croc. What does Bird tell Croc to do?
- How successful are they? Why might this be?
- What does Croc suggest they do next?
- Why might this be a dangerous thing to do A] for Croc and B] for Bird?

### **Page 7-8**

- Why does Croc ask himself what food looks like?
- Look on page 8. What might Croc decide to take to Bird for them to eat?

### **Page 9-10**

- Why does Croc decide to take a selection of food back to Bird?
- Might Coc's use of the word WE be significant? Why?

- Why do you think Bird asks Croc to chew his food for him? Does it remind you of how young birds are fed in the wild?
- After eating, both Croc and Bird state that they are cold. What do you think they will do to help each other stay warm?
- How is this illustrated on page 10?

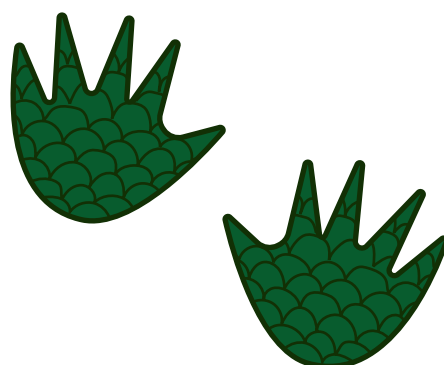
### **Page 11-16**

- The dawning of a new day begins. Might this be significant? Discuss.
- Why do you think Bird wants to sing to the sun? What might this suggest about the dawn chorus and why birds like to sing at this time?
- Who is the better singer: Croc or Bird? How is this illustrated on page 13?
- When Croc asks what Bird is sitting on, how does Bird reply?
- Might Bird's use of the word OUR be important? Why might this be?
- Bird and Croc grow TOGETHER. What does the use of this word suggest about their family and friendship?
- How is this growth and bonding (both physical and emotional) illustrated on pages 15-16?



### **Page 17-18**

- What kinds of activities did Croc and Bird practice together?
- Which of these were they both good at?
- Which of these was Bird good at but Croc was not?
- Which of these was Croc good at but Bird was not?
- Did it matter that Croc and Bird were not always good at doing an activity the other excelled at? Why not? Discuss.
- What might we learn from this?
- When the weather was bad, they were there for each other to keep each other warm. What does this result in Croc saying to Bird?
- Why do you think such simple togetherness brings true happiness? Discuss.



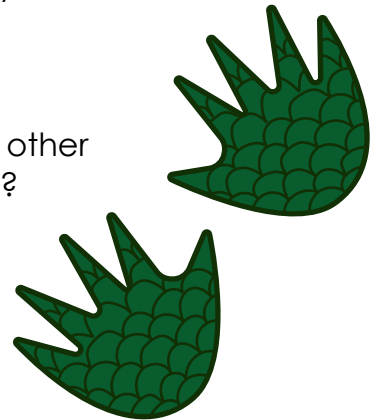
### Page 19-20

- What do Croc and Bird stumble upon when they follow the river while out hunting?
- Look at how this has been depicted by the illustrator. Where are croc and Bird? Might it be significant that they are together on the river bank so are neither lounging in the lake nor perched high up in the forest branches? Discuss.
- What do you think Croc and Bird might think when they see such a sight?
- What do you think A] the crocodiles and B] the birds will think when they see Croc and Bird?



### Page 21-22

- On page 21, we only see Croc and Bird facing each other. None of the other crocodiles or birds are visible. Might this be important?
- What do you think they are thinking?
- What do you think they are about to say to each other?
- Now read page 22. Is this what you thought they would say?
- Who is it that uses the word SILLY? Why do you think they use this word? Do you think they are right to use it? Discuss.
- Is this what you thought would happen next?
- How do you feel when Croc swims away to be with the other crocodiles and Bird flies away to be with the other birds? Why do you feel this way? Discuss.



### Page 23-24

- There are no words on these pages. Why might this be?
- Look at the picture on page 23. Which of these birds is Bird? How can you tell?
- Why do you think Bird is perched on a branch on his own even though he is now living with all the other birds? Discuss.
- Look at the picture on page 24. Which of these crocodiles is Croc? Why do you think this? Are any of the other crocodiles interacting with him? Why might this be? Discuss.
- Interestingly, each scene is pictured on its own page. The two are physically separated from one another. Might this be deliberate?

### Page 25-26

- What does Croc do on page 25 that the other crocodiles don't like?
- Why do you think Croc does this?
- Why might the other crocodiles not like it?
- What does Bird do on page 25 that the other birds don't like?
- Why do you think Bird does this?
- Why might the other birds not like it?
- How is this idea developed on page 26? Discuss.
- Why do you think Bird decides to fly away? Where might he be going?
- How does this make you feel? Why?



### Page 27-28

- Where does Bird find Croc?
- Why do you think Croc climbed the tree and perched on it?
- Although the other crocodiles and birds would find this very strange, would Croc and Bird? Why not?
- Which do you think is the most important word on page 28? Why do you think this?
- How does this reunited family make you feel?

### Page 29

- Both Croc and Bird wish each other GOOD NIGHT. Why might they consider this night to be so good?
- Why do you think they are now able to sleep, happy and contented, when they couldn't sleep before?
- How is Croc and Bird's friendship depicted on this page?

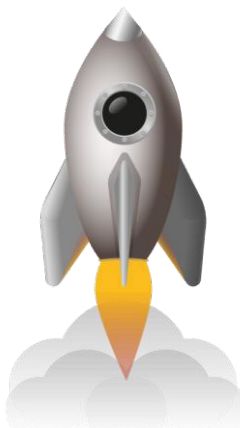
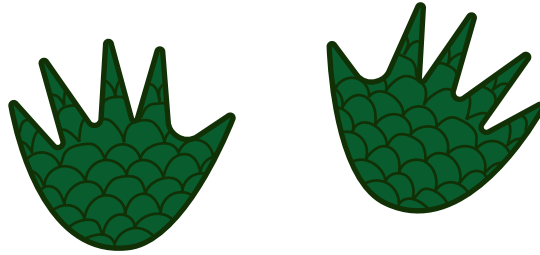


**Think about the story as a whole:**

What do you think this story is trying to teach us?

What lesson about FRIENDSHIP and who we call FAMILY have you learnt?

What might this teach us about LOVE?



The perfect companion to  
Reading Rocketeers: **Unit 2.1**

## **John Murray**

[www.johnmurraycpd.co.uk](http://www.johnmurraycpd.co.uk)



John is a recognised specialist in developing children's reading and comprehension.

The creator of Reading Explorers, Top Class Comprehension and Reading Rocketeers, his seminars and CPD training focus on the teaching, learning and enjoyment of reading.

An independent Literacy consultant, he aims to support schools to improve their performance and secure best practice. Above all, it is to ignite within us a passion for books and a genuine love for the written word.

His enthusiasm and expertise can be seen throughout his work and his resources and training are used in classrooms worldwide.

**“Let us remember: one book, one pen, one child, one teacher can change the world.”**

**Malala Yousafzai**