

# Wild.Winged.Wonders.

## Introduction

**B**irds have long been a subject for artists. John J. Audubon was perhaps the greatest of the bird painters. Peter Paul Rubens, in his dramatic painting “Prometheus Bound,” shows the power of an eagle removing the liver of Prometheus as his punishment for giving man fire. Leonardo da Vinci studied various birds in his quest for human flight. Birds are prominent in many important literary works such as Richard Bach’s *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* and Edgar Allan Poe’s poem, *The Raven*.

All around the world, people enjoy countless hours of bird-watching. Birds of paradise, tiny hummingbirds at feeders, a nesting parent taking care of chicks, or a cardinal against a snowy background are just a few of the many birds that inspire writers and artists.

Let’s celebrate our fine feathered friends. As we learn more about birds, we come to appreciate them more and help them to survive.

## The Problem

**T**he problem is to create and present a performance that includes three birds and features one of them for a special recognition. Of the three birds, one will be of a living species, one will be an original bird and the third will be a “classic” bird found in a documented work of art (painting, sculpture, etc.), or in a documented work of literature (book, poem, etc.). During the presentation, students will discuss the merits of each bird, then tell why one was chosen over the other two for special recognition. This bird will, in some way, give its reaction to being chosen.

The performance will also include three original works of art, each depicting one of the birds; an announcement about the special recognition; and a commemorative memento for the occasion. In addition, one bird will fly or give the illusion of flying.

The **creative emphases** are on the original bird, the commemorative memento and the special recognition.

The **Spirit of the Problem** is to create and present a performance that includes three birds. Students will present the merits of each bird, select one for a special recognition, and give the reasons why that bird was chosen. Students will also create a commemorative memento for the special recognition. One bird will fly or appear to fly.

CREATIVE



### Students learn:

- Characteristics of different species of birds
- Classical art and literature
- Artistic skills
- Presentation skills
- Public speaking

### OotM® Definitions

*characteristic*— a distinguishing feature of an individual or thing.

*illusion*— the bird will look as if it is flying, but it does not have to actually fly. It can soar through the air through use of wires, for example.

*portrayed*— the way something is made to look a certain way, or the means achieved to represent an element required in the problem.



Some examples of Wild Winged Wonders. Which would you choose for the special recognition?



A musical bird



A dancing peacock

## Limitations

1. The three required birds:
  - a. can display human characteristics such as walking and talking.
  - b. can be portrayed by any means, such as by someone in costume, a puppet, prop, etc. The way a bird is portrayed can change during the performance. For example, a required bird may be portrayed at one time by a student in costume and at another time by a puppet.
  - c. can be portrayed oversized, undersized, or as actual size, but they must retain their physical characteristics in proportion to their overall size.
2. The existing species of bird:
  - a. must be from a currently existing species of bird.
  - b. cannot be modeled after a cartoon, mascot or any other existing bird-like character.
3. The original bird must have, or appear to have, a beak, feathers, wings and feet.
4. The classic bird must be a bird that is found in a well-known literary work or in a well-known work of art. The bird does not have to be the main subject or theme of the classic work.
5. One of the three required birds must fly for five or more consecutive seconds. To be considered flying, the bird must not touch anything, including team members, the floor, props, etc. The bird may make as many attempts to fly as time allows.

OR

One of the three required birds must appear to fly for five or more consecutive seconds.

6. The original works of art:
  - a. can be done on any material, using any medium.
  - b. must be a generally accepted form of visual art, such as drawings, paintings, sculpture, screen prints, etc. However, this does not include performance art such as dance.
  - c. cannot be computer generated.
7. The special recognition can be anything.
8. Students must create and present a commemorative memento for the special recognition. This is in addition to the three required works of art.



9. The announcement of why the bird was chosen for the special recognition can be presented in any way and at any time.

## Scoring

1. Creativity of the overall performance ..... 1 to 25 points
2. Quality of the performance ..... 1 to 20 points
3. How well the existing species is represented ..... 1 to 5 points
4. How well the classical bird is represented ..... 1 to 5 points
5. Creativity of the original bird ..... 1 to 20 points
6. One bird flies for a minimum of 5 seconds ..... 0, 5 or 15 points
  - a. Gives the illusion of flying ..... 5 points

OR

  - b. Flies according to Limitation 5 ..... 15 points
7. Artistic quality of the works of art ..... 3 to 30 points
  - a. First work (existing bird) ..... 1 to 10 points
  - b. Second work (original bird) ..... 1 to 10 points
  - c. Third work (classic bird) ..... 1 to 10 points
8. Creativity of the special recognition ..... 1 to 10 points
9. How the merits of each bird relate to the special recognition ..... 3 to 30 points
  - a. Merits of the existing bird ..... 1 to 10 points
  - b. Merits of the team-created bird .. 1 to 10 points
  - c. Merits of the classic bird ..... 1 to 10 points
10. The commemorative memento ..... 2 to 20 points
  - a. Creativity of the concept of the memento ..... 1 to 10 points
  - b. Appearance of the memento .... 1 to 10 points
11. The bird's reaction to being chosen for the special recognition ..... 1 to 20 points  
*Maximum possible: 200 points*

## Style

1. Creativity of one of the three required works of art ... 1 to 10 points
2. Creative use of materials in one costume ..... 1 to 10 points
3. Free choice ..... 1 to 10 points
4. Free choice ..... 1 to 10 points
5. Overall effect ..... 1 to 10 points  
*Maximum possible: 50 points*



A balloon "bird" is kept afloat by the current of a fan to make it appear to "fly."

### How do I score ...

#### **How well the existing species and classical bird are represented:**

Look at how closely they resemble what they are supposed to be.

#### **Creativity of the original bird:**

It should be feasible that this could be an actual species of bird, but it should not closely resemble a species that already exists or has existed in the past.

#### **The bird's reaction to being chosen for the special recognition:**

Is the reaction unpredictable, humorous, or totally unexpected?

