



2002

Teenie Bird and How She Learned to Fly

Devi Chitrapu

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Bosschaert, Greet. *Teenie Bird and How She Learned to Fly*. Illustrated by Greet Bosschaert. Harry N. Abrams, 2001. ISBN 0810935864. \$12. 95. 25 pp.

Reviewer: Devi Chitrapu

Reading Level: Preschool; Primary

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Fiction; Picture book

Subject: Birds--Fiction; Flight--Fiction; Fear--Fiction; Books--Reviews

Bosschaert's first book, *Teenie Bird and How She Learned to Fly*, is based on her personal observation of a blackbird family in her garden. A newborn blackbird inspired this first person narrative—the little blackbird, who is white in color, is the narrator.

The little blackbird compares herself with her mothers and brothers and finds herself different from them in many respects. Though she is born in the blackbird's family, she is white. She is also quite small compared to her big brothers and mother. Being big, her brothers are strong and anxious to fly and find their food. But the teenie white bird fears flying and likes to be fed by her mother all the time. She finds home and her mother's presence safe and secure. Timid as she is, she wishes to stay inside her warm and safe nest forever.

Teenie Bird is a small book written in easy language. This short but sweet story has a clear character-building message for children. It inspires young children to learn their way into the wide world and become independent. The drawings are so clear they can tell the story to young children who have not yet learned to read.