

## **Bird to Bird**

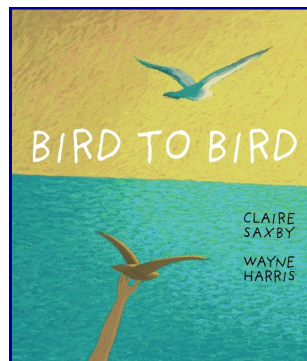
By Claire Saxby and Wayne Harris

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\$24.99

A bird drops a seed to the floor of the forest. The seed grows into a sapling, then a tree. The tree is felled and taken to a busy city. *Bird to Bird* is the story of one bird, one seed, one tree.



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

### **Themes:**

- Nature
- History
- Recycling
- Art

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Discuss the title of the book. What do you think it means? Come up with an alternative title for the book.
- Personification is when you give human qualities or abilities to an object or animal. Find examples of personification in the book and discuss why you think Claire Saxby used this device. Examples for students to find include: "...the hungry city" and "...the tree trudges to the docks".
- The story of *Bird to Bird* comes full circle at the end; that is, the story begins and ends with a bird. How might the story have been different if it didn't come full circle?
- The story of *Bird to Bird* focuses on a particular piece of wood that is used and reused for a variety of different purposes throughout its lifetime. What does this story make you think about recycling in general? What are the benefits of recycling? What would change if a new piece of wood was used for each of the objects created throughout this story?
- Create a list of other uses the wood could have.
- Why were the bunks removed from the ship?
- Why did the early European settlers choose to recycle timber when there were ample trees available? Consider different types of wood, no milling available, etc.
- What else might have been recycled by the settlers? Why would recycling have been so important? Consider their access to fresh supplies from England via ships, available materials in Australia, the lack of existing European-style farms/homes in Australia, financial reasons, and their needs.
- Identify examples of how the passage of time is shown in the words and illustrations. Suggest some other ways the author and illustrator could have shown time passing.
- What is a convict? Why were these convicts on a ship? Where were they going? Examine the illustration of the convicts. Based on their expression and body language discuss how you think they are feeling.
- Later, the wood is used to create a frame for a weaving loom. What is a weaving loom? Do we still use these today, or is there a modern equivalent?
- Compare the illustrations in the beginning of the book to those in the end. What is similar and what is different? Consider the trees, animals, buildings, clothing and the colour of the sky and water. What do these differences and similarities signify?
- Take turns describing/retelling the story as if you were explaining it to someone who hasn't read it yet. What do you think are the most important parts of the story? Why do you think that?