Question of the Week

How can we find adventure in ordinary events?

Key Comprehension Skill
Literary Elements: Character and Plot

Concept Words
swooped    chirps
chicks      flap

Learning Goals
• We can have adventures at home.
• We can find adventures with our family.
• People can help wild animals.
“Mom, can you drive me to Jeremy’s house?” I asked.

“I am sorry, Matt. I don’t have time today,” my mom answered.

My family lives in the country. During the school year, I see my friends on the bus and at school. In the summer, my mom drives me to see my friends. Sometimes they come here.

“Why don’t you play with your sister?” Mom said, smiling.

Do you have a little sister? If you do, you might know how I feel. Having a younger sister can be a lot of work!

“Play with me! Play with me!” Amanda begged. She always wants me to play with her.

So we went outside. Amanda sat in the tire swing.

“Push me! Push me!” she said.

Suddenly, a small bird flew by Amanda’s head. It flew up to a branch. Then it swooped back down.

“What is it doing?” Amanda asked.

We watched the bird fly back and forth.

“Look, Matt! A nest!” Amanda said, pointing to a branch. High in the tree, we saw a nest made of straw and twigs.

We heard little chirps. There were baby birds in the nest!

swoop: to suddenly fly low

chirp: a high, short sound, usually made by birds
The next morning, Amanda and I ran outside to look at the nest. Halfway up the tree we saw our neighbor's cat, Sly. He was climbing toward the nest.

"No, Sly! Go away!" Amanda screamed, waving her arms. Sly ran off.

Then we saw the mother bird. She was not swooping like before. She was hopping from branch to branch.

"What's wrong?" Amanda asked. "She looks sick."

The mother bird had one wing close to her body. "I think she hurt her wing," I said.

"But she has to feed the babies!" Amanda shouted.

"I have an idea," I said. I found an old bird feeder and filled it with seeds. Then I hung it from a branch.

Soon, the mother bird hopped over to the feeder. She took some seeds and hopped back to the nest.

We put food in the feeder every day. The mother bird sat on a branch and watched. Then she took some food to her chicks.

More and more, the chicks started to fling their wings. They got very noisy. They poked their heads over the side of the nest.

"Look, Matt!" Amanda said. A chick was flapping its wings on the edge of the nest. It was making an attempt to fly.

chicks: baby birds

flap: to move back and forth quickly
Suddenly, the chick swooped down and landed on the ground. It seemed proud of this amazing feat.

"Mom!" I called. She ran out.

"The chick tried to fly, but it fell to the ground. What should we do?"

"Nothing, Matt. The mother will protect the chicks. They will all learn to fly very soon."

"We need to keep away!" I said.

Sometimes life in the country can be very exciting.

**Talk About It**
1. Do you think Matt is a good big brother? Why?
2. How do Matt and Amanda help the birds?

**Write About It**
3. Write a short paragraph about where you live. In the paragraph, describe one thing you like about where you live.

**Extend Language**
There are many action words in this story. For example, *the mother bird swoops*. Find at least four other action words in the story.