

DOCTOR HAWK AND THE HEN



Once upon a time there was a rich bird called Dr Hawk. He and his family had everything that birds wanted in life. All the birds were more concerned about how they looked rather than their homes or food. Food and homes were in abundance.

It was a custom for many birds to borrow needles from the rich Doctor Hawk. If some birds were lucky, he would even give them the needles for free. This meant that other birds were able to sew very attractive clothes. Today modern people call these clothes the birds wear feathers.

Many birds would stand in queues waiting for needles.

One day it was hen, who was lucky enough to borrow the needle. But she was also given some rules which seemed very harsh. She was told not to lose the needle. If she lost the needle the punishment would be that Hawk would eat her young ones.

She managed to make some nice clothes for her young ones. Afterwards, Hen went with her family to play and took the needle with her. They ate lots of food at the picnic and had a great time. But, she forgot that she had Doctor Hawk's needle with her.

She and her family were so excited that she accidentally lost the needle in all the fun and games. Just as she was leaving, when it was time to go home she remembered that she had Hawk's needle.

"We have lost the needle" cried hen. She was worried about losing her children. She told them that they would have to search for the lost needle until they find it.

Hen and her family scratched here, there and everywhere, but they failed to find it. The following morning, they scratched more but still they could not find the needle.

Hawk learnt that they had lost the needle and he started eating hen's chicks.

Hen then complained to wise Kalulu, the hare. She was told to consult a blackbird that had a very sharp beak. Doctor Hawk feared the blackbird as it was little and aggressive. She told blackbird what happened and blackbird came to help her.

From then on, when Hawk came to eat the chicks, hen yelled and the blackbird would come and rescue her friend from danger. Blackbird was plucking Hawk's feathers, as he was flying so that he dropped the chick and became upset.

Today when you see free-range chickens scratching on the ground, remember they are still looking for the needle.

Moral of the story:

- birds depend on each other just as global citizens do.
It is good to be fair to everyone. Hawk was not fair to hen,
- We sometimes lose other people's things and we have to know that they might lose our things as well. If so, a fair replacement has to be found, not this evil penalty.
- Do we give our friends a tough punishment as hawk did?
- How can we help hawk to be fair with others?
- If you were hen, what could you do in the situation like this?
- The story in a Malawi setting helps children, as well as communities, to resolve matters in a friendly way.

Collected from Mikute Primary School