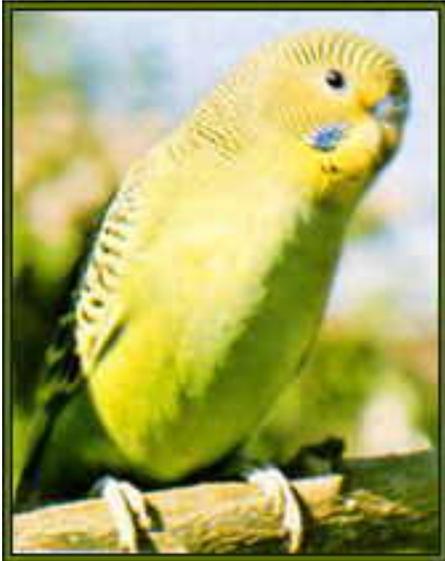


## THE LITTLE YELLOW BUDGIE



Mr. Jackson had a very large bird cage at the back of his house. That is called an aviary. He kept big parrots in this aviary. Parrots have very strong beaks. They can use those beaks to break branches off the trees. They can even crack honey nuts with them. But..... they can also bite your finger if you come too close to them. They could even break your finger if they wanted to. Or if you tease these parrots they can become very angry.

Then they can really hurt you if you come too close to them.

But little children never tease parrots, do they?

Children must always be kind to animals.

Mr. Jackson had many different parrots in his aviary. He had twenty eights and also some pink and grey Galahs.

He also had some Rainbow Lorikeets with beautiful green and orange colours.



Rainbow Lorikeets make screechy sounds. They are very noisy birds.

All these birds were in Mr. Jackson's aviary.

This large cage had wire all around so that the birds would not fly away.

There were big holes in the wire.

But the birds were all very big and they could never go through the holes in the wire.

Of course, small birds could go through those holes. And so it happened that one day a small bird flew straight through the holes in the wire right into the aviary.

He could fly in..... and he could fly out again very easily.



It was a small yellow budgerigar, a budgie as most people call them.

Why was this little budgie flying around here?

Why wasn't he in his cage?

Do you know why?

Because one day the boy who was supposed to look after the budgie had left the door of the budgie's cage open.

This boy always gave food and clean water to the little bird, every day. And one day, when he was in a hurry, he had forgotten to close the door of the cage again.

And so the budgie flew away.

The poor little bird flew around for a long time.

When night time came he could not find his own cage again.

He could not find his home. How sad.

He was lost.

So he had to sleep on the branch of a tree.

He was very hungry, though, and he did not sleep very well with an empty stomach.

He knew where his food was. It was in his cage. But where was his cage? Next morning he looked around again for his cage but the poor, lonely little yellow bird could not find it. But do you know what he found? He found Mr. Jackson's large aviary with all the parrots. Surely there must be plenty of food in that large cage.

He found that he could easily fly through the holes in the wire for he was only a small bird.

There was plenty of food on the bottom of the cage.

And just as the little yellow budgie was going to eat some of that food guess what happened?

A big parrot flew down and chased him away.

The budgie quickly flew through the holes in the wire.

He did not want to get hurt by the strong beak of that parrot.

But he was still hungry and he wanted food.

Do you think he would dare to go back and try again?

He did not think about it too long for he was far too hungry.

Again he flew through the wire into the aviary.

But this time all the big birds attacked him and chased him away.

He just managed to escape through the wire away from those strong beaks.



Again he tried for he was hungry and there in the cage was plenty of food.  
Surely they could share some food with him.  
This time he was lucky.  
Do you know what happened?

When he flew in again all the birds wanted to hurt him again.  
But.... there was one big friendly Galah who wanted to help him.  
He chased all the other, those selfish, birds away.  
Now they could not hurt the little yellow budgie.  
And the little bird could eat as much as he liked.  
Every day he was allowed to come back.

They did not hurt him any more and they did not chase him away.  
He could fly in and out and eat as much as he wanted to.  
After a while he even slept in the large cage.  
He cuddled up against the friendly Galah.  
That was nice and warm at night.  
And he was never hungry any more.  
He had found a friend, the pink and grey Galah.  
The Galah was his friend because he shared the cage and the food with the little yellow budgie.

And all the other parrots in the aviary never hurt the budgie any more.  
They were sorry that they had been so nasty to him and that they chased him away.  
Now they were all friends and they all shared their food with the little yellow budgie.  
The budgie was now very safe and happy.  
After a few days a young boy knocked on Mr. Jackson's door. The boy had a small bird cage in his hand.

I have lost my little budgie, said, the young boy. It's a yellow one.  
Have you seen it?  
Yes, I have, said Mr. Jackson.  
It often flies in and out of my large aviary.  
It shares the food with my parrots and he even sleeps with them at night.

Come around the back of the house and have a look. He might even be there right now.



And there he was in the large aviary with the parrots. As soon as the little yellow budgie saw the boy he flew straight up to him. He was so happy to see him. He flew straight into his little cage. This was his little house. The boy was very happy, too.

He said thank you to Mr. Jackson and went home with his little yellow bird.

And now and then the boy would open the door of the little cage so that the budgie could go and see his friends at Mr. Jackson's place. Some evenings the budgie would not come back. But that did not worry the boy. He knew that his little bird would then be very safe. He would be asleep right next to his friend, the pink and grey Galah. Sharing makes you happy.



The boy now shared his budgie with Mr. Jackson and all the parrots.

And the parrots shared their cage and their food with the little yellow budgie.

Now they are all happy because they have all learnt to share.