



# Flying Home

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## Summary

Felix is a bird from Brazil who lives with the Baxter family in New York. He has lived in a cage for two years and misses his family. He is unhappy. He remembers the day when he was caught in the jungle. One day Mr Baxter opens the cage to feed him and Felix escapes and flies out of the window. He meets a bird on the head of the Statue of Liberty and tells him he's going home. He starts to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. He's hungry, but he's happy. Felix sees a ship and eats some fish. When he gets to Machu Picchu, a big bird tells him about Aca, a bird in Rio, who knows the jungle well and can help Felix. Felix flies to Rio and meets Aca. In Rio, a man tries to catch him but Aca helps him escape. The two birds see a lot of men building a road near where Felix's family live and at first Felix can't find his home. In the end he sees his family and he is home and happy.

## Background and themes

**Freedom:** Felix is a wild bird but was captured and taken to live in a foreign country with humans. He likes the humans but wants to be free and to live with his family again.

**Domestic pets:** Some animals such as dogs and cats are very happy to live with people. However, for other animals, such as birds, their life might not be so pleasant as they are kept in cages and cannot fly.

**Destruction of natural habitats:** Although Felix's story ends happily, the men building and constructing in the jungle are destroying the animals' and people's habitats.

## Discussion activities

### Before reading

- Predict:** Ask students to look at the cover and the title. *What can you see? Where are the birds from? Where do the birds live? What do the birds eat? What is home for the birds? Is this a happy story?*  
Tell students to write down their predictions so that they can go back to them when they finish reading the book.

### Pages 1–7

- While reading** (p. 6, after "I'm going home.")
- Role play:** Put students into pairs. Student A is the small, grey and white bird and Student B is Felix. Student A tries to make Felix stay in New York, and Felix tries to make the small bird come to Brazil with him. See Discussion activity key for suggestions.

### After reading

- Describe and draw:** Students work in pairs. Student A chooses one of the pictures from pages 1–7 and describes the scene to Student B. Student B tries to draw the picture from Student A's description. Then they reverse roles. How accurate are the pictures?

### Pages 8–15

**While reading** (p. 10, after 'the Inca city of Machu Picchu.')

- Research:** Ask the students to look for information on the Internet about Machu Picchu, the famous Inca city. Students then give an oral and illustrated presentation of what they have found out.

### After reading

- Pair work:** Write the following words on the board: *photograph, a stone, friend, father, road.* In pairs, students make sentences including these words to reflect how they were important in pages 8–15 without looking at the book.
- Write:** Ask students to complete the table with words that refer to good and bad things that happen to Felix in the book.

GOOD	BAD

- Check:** Ask students go back to their predictions before they read the book. Were they right? Tell them to change any of the predictions that were wrong.

## Vocabulary activities

For the Word List and vocabulary activities, go to [www.penguinreaders.com](http://www.penguinreaders.com).