

# Learning to Fly

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Pre-Reading Questions:

- What are your **dreams**?
- Has anything ever stood between you and your dreams?

Once upon a time, there was a **princess** named Miyah. She lived far away in a big, stone **castle**. Princess Miyah was very kind and beautiful, and everyone in the kingdom loved her. Princess Miyah loved everyone, too. But one day, Miyah was sad. She sat in the grass under her favorite tree, and she cried.

“What is wrong?” a voice called from the tree. It came from a little bluebird sitting in a **nest**. Princess



Miyah **sighed** and told her story to him.

“My mother and father found a **prince** for me to marry,” she said. “I have always loved learning. I love to read books and learn about people and places. Books are the only way I learn about the world outside of the castle. If I **marry**, I will never be able to leave,” she said sadly.

The bluebird nodded his head. “I know how you feel.”

“How?” questioned Princess Miyah, “You can leave any time! You have wings! You can fly!”

The little bluebird sighed, “But I cannot. I never learned to fly.”

Princess Miyah **gasp**ed in surprise. “How sad! We are both stuck here. Where would you go if you could leave your nest?”

The little bluebird stared at the big sky above them and smiled. “Everywhere!” he said. “I would fly over every river, over every forest, over every mountain, over every castle!”

“If I could leave this castle, I would go everywhere, too,” she said. “I would go to all the places I read

about in my books! I would learn new things every day, and one day, if I were lucky, I would be a teacher! I would teach about all the places I visited and all the people I met.” Suddenly, a **bell** rang from the castle.

“I must go now. It was nice to meet you,” Princess Miyah said. She stood up, said goodbye, and went into the castle.

Many days passed, and soon it was the day of the **wedding**. Princess Miyah looked beautiful in her wedding dress, but she wished she did not have to wear it. Her heart was very sad because she did not want this life. Her parents would be happy. The prince would be happy. Everyone in the **kingdom** would be happy. But Princess Miyah knew she would never be happy if she could not follow her dreams. A **tear** fell down her face, when suddenly she heard a noise at her window. She opened the window, and to her surprise, she saw her little friend!

“Bluebird!” she shouted. “You are flying! You learned to fly!”

The little bluebird flew around happily, **spreading** his little blue wings as the wind lightly touched his

pretty feathers. He was not sad anymore. His eyes were very happy.

“After I spoke to you,” he said, “and after I told you of my dream to travel all over the world, I could not stay in the nest any longer. Life is too short to **waste** it doing something you do not want to do. You only get one life. I do not want to waste mine.”

Princess Miyah knew that the little bluebird was not only talking about himself. He wanted Princess Miyah to live her dreams. Princess Miyah knew that she wanted that for herself. She looked at the bird, and she saw how happy and free he was. She thought of



the great **courage** it took to leave the nest.

“*Everyone* **deserves** to be happy and free, Princess Miyah,” the little bird said to her.

At that moment, Princess Miyah knew what she must do. She ran down the castle **stairs** and told her father and mother that she could not marry the prince. She found the prince and **apologized** to him. She told him that she knew he was a good man, but that she could not love him fully.

Princess Miyah walked from the castle. She was excited for this great new **adventure**. She did not know exactly what the future held for her, but she was not afraid. She was following her dreams, and she was finally happy.



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