



ABOUT YOU

Answer the questions and talk about your ideas.

- 1 How can people help animals?
- 2 Do you like birds? Why / Why not?
- 3 Do you like the countryside? Why / Why not?
- 4 Why are some animals in the countryside in danger?

This story is about Abraham Lincoln, who was a very important president of the USA. Many people say he was also a really good, kind person.

1 Read the text. As you read, think about this question.

Why do you think Abraham Lincoln helps the little birds?

'Saving the Birds' from *Fifty Famous People; A Book of Short Stories* (1912)

James Baldwin

One day in spring, four men rode their horses along a country road. These men were **lawyers**, and they were going to the next town to work. Because of rain, the ground was very soft and the grass was wet. They rode slowly, and

5 talked and laughed.

As they rode near some small trees, they heard a noise and saw a bird. Another noise came from the wet grass.

'What is the **matter** here?' asked the first lawyer, surprised.

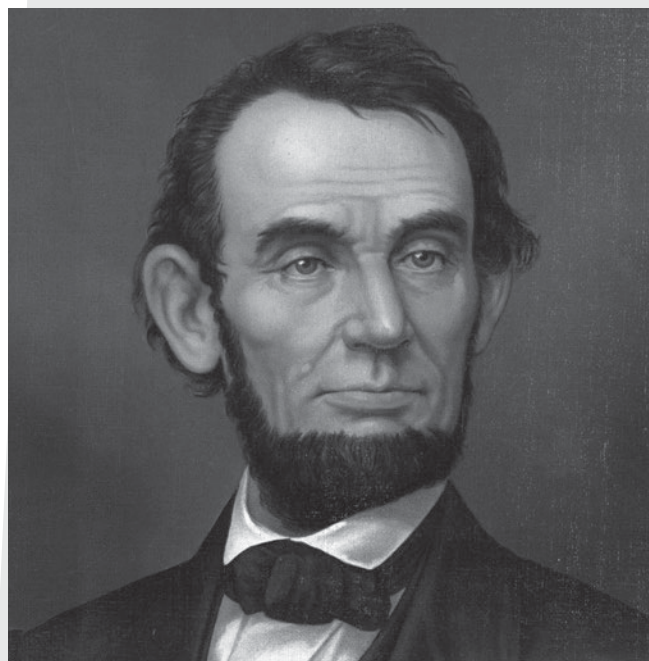
10 'Oh, it's only some old **robins**!' said the second lawyer. 'Two of the little ones fell out of the **nest**. They are too young to fly, and the mother bird is worried and upset.'

'Poor birds! They'll die there in the grass,' said the third lawyer.

'Oh, well! They're only birds,' said the first lawyer.

15 'Yes, only birds' said the second lawyer.

But the fourth lawyer, whose name was Abraham Lincoln, stopped. He got off his horse and very **gently** picked the little ones up in his big warm hands. They were not afraid.



20 'Never mind, little birds,' said Mr Lincoln, 'I will put you in your little bed, your nest.' He **climbed** the tree and put the birds softly, one by one, into their warm little home.

Soon one of the lawyers who did not stop said, 'Where is Lincoln?'

They were surprised to find that he was not with them.

GLOSSARY

saving	making safe from danger
lawyers	people whose job it is to understand the law and help people with legal problems
matter	problem
robins	small birds
nest	a home built by birds for their eggs and to live in
gently	kindly and with care not to hurt someone
climbed	went up something, or onto the top of something

2 Read the text again and answer the questions.

- 1 Why don't the other men stop to help the birds?

.....
.....

- 2 Why is the grass soft?

.....
.....

- 3 Which two things are a surprise to the men?

.....
.....

- 4 Why do you think the birds are not afraid?

.....
.....

- 5 Can you think of two words to describe Abraham Lincoln?

.....
.....

VOCABULARY

3 Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

climb lawyer nest robin

- 1 The birds have a high up in the tree.
2 Children the tree in the summer.
3 A small is eating bread in the garden.
4 His mother is a and she works in an office.

4 Change the order of the letters to write the words in *italics* correctly.

- 1 Lincoln *vases* the little birds.
2 Please tell me what's the *temtra*.
.....
3 She picks up the cat very *teglyn*.
.....
4 My sister wants to be a *walyer*.

WRITING

5 Work with a partner and write six more Yes/No questions for a 'famous person' quiz.

- 1 Is this person a man or a woman?
2 Is this person old or young?
3 Is this person a singer?
4 Does this person speak English?
5 Does/Is?
6 Does/Is?
7 Does/Is?
8 Does/Is?
9 Does/Is?
10 Does/Is?

SPEAKING

6 Work in small groups. One person thinks of a famous person. The other people in the group ask questions and try to guess the famous person. You can use some questions you wrote in Activity 5 and other questions.