



Title: Grumpy Bird

Author: Jeremy Tankard

Themes: Birds, animals, emotions, bad moods, exercise

Vocabulary: grumpy, keep company, exercise, hint

Print Awareness: how many words in title? What sound does “bird” start with? Which word in title is Bird?

See example of this book read aloud here: [Grumpy Bird 2](#); [Grumpy Bird 3](#)

Summary: Bird wakes up feeling grumpy--too grumpy to eat or play, and too grumpy even to fly. With a little exercise and companionship, Bird is able to shake his bad mood in this winsome and refreshingly original debut picture book.

Enrichment Activities

I. Storytime

a. Discussion Questions

- What does grumpy mean? Do you ever feel grumpy? Can you make a grumpy face like Bird?
- What makes you grumpy?
- Why do you think Bird woke up grumpy?
- What makes you feel better?
- Do you like to walk or exercise? What other ways do you exercise?
- Can all those animals really fly? Which ones can? Can you?
- What is his mood at the end of the day?
- What time of day is it when bird wakes up?
- Are other animals grumpy too? How can you tell?
- What does bird serve for snack? What’s funny about the last picture? Where’s bird’s house?
- How can you tell difference between animals (beaver/raccoon tails, rabbit ears, etc)
- After reading: Can you remember which animals joined Bird?

b. Other

- Have a child identify each animal as it approaches Bird.
- Have children notice the photo elements of the pictures; the trees, bushes in the background
- Have students count animals as they join group (1 and 1 more makes 2, how many all together?)
- Practice exercises such as jumping jacks, walking in place, etc.

c. Related Songs, Rhymes & Finger plays

Five Cranky Crabs

Five cranky crabs were digging on the shore.
One swam into a net and then there were four.
Four cranky crabs were floating in the sea.
One got tangled up in seaweed then there were three.
Three Cranky crabs were wondering what to do.
One dug a deep, deep hole. Then there were two.
Two cranky crabs were warming in the sun. .
One got scooped up in a cup. Then there was one.
One cranky crab was smarter than his friends.
He hid between the jagged rocks.
That's how the story ends.

II. Extended Activities

Dramatic Play

*[See example of a class acting out this story here.](#)

Assign students a role (Bird, Fox, Beaver, ect.) and act out the story.

How are you feeling today? [\(source\)](#)

Draw a picture of how you are feeling today. See [template](#).

Standing on one-leg competition [\(source\)](#) – with other physical activities for groups)

Ask everyone to stand on one leg. This is an excellent assessment of ankle strength, balance, and psychological centeredness. Ask who can be the last one left standing? Consider non-contact (more meditative) or contact versions (e.g., hopping warfare). Swap legs and try again.

Official Book Activities

See activities created for *Grump Bird* by the author [here](#).

III. At home

Go for a walk around your neighborhood. Talk about the things you see. Plan the next time you will take a walk together for exercise, and try to build this anti-grumpy habit!

IV. Template

When Bird wakes up, he feels grumpy. How do you feel today? Draw a picture to show us.



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