

The Eagle (II)

Eagle is a big bird with beautiful colors on his feathers. When he flies he spreads his wings and glides along with the wind. He glides along as if he owns the world. The eagle lays her eggs high up in the trees and feeds the young only what she kills, never wasting kill. This bird earned its respect from the Indians. Eagle feathers are displayed with pride by Indian dancers from other tribes. Tales about eagles have been told in many ways by different tribes. This particular story was told to me by an elder of the Seminole Tribe when I was a girl.

—Betty Mae Jumper

Once there were children out playing in an open field near where the eagles lived. The children saw a big bird flying around them, so they all ran for cover—everyone except one little boy. The big bird came down and picked him up. As the bird flew higher and higher, the little boy began to cry. No one on the ground knew what to do. Then two teenage boys said they knew where the eagle's nest was.

In the meantime, the boy had been dropped in the nest. The young eagles in the nest looked at the little boy and began pecking at him. He stopped crying and began to pat them on their heads. The little birds liked him and soon quit picking at him.

Mother Eagle noticed that the little boy had lived through two days. The chicks did not care to eat him, so Mother went hunting again for something they would eat.

While Mother was away, the two teenagers climbed until they reached the top of the hill. As they were getting ready to climb onto the tree, Mother Eagle returned.

Afraid that they might get killed, the teenagers stopped and waited on a big rock, where they slept till the next day.

When the boys awoke on the next day, they noticed that Mother Eagle was getting ready to go hunting again. After she flew off, the boys hurried to the tree where the nest was. In the nest they found the little boy sitting with the chicks. They quickly picked up the little boy and slid down the rope they had tied up. Off they went to return the little boy to his family.

Remember! The eagle is a strong bird that can pick up anything, even if it is heavy. Never underestimate what an eagle can do!

