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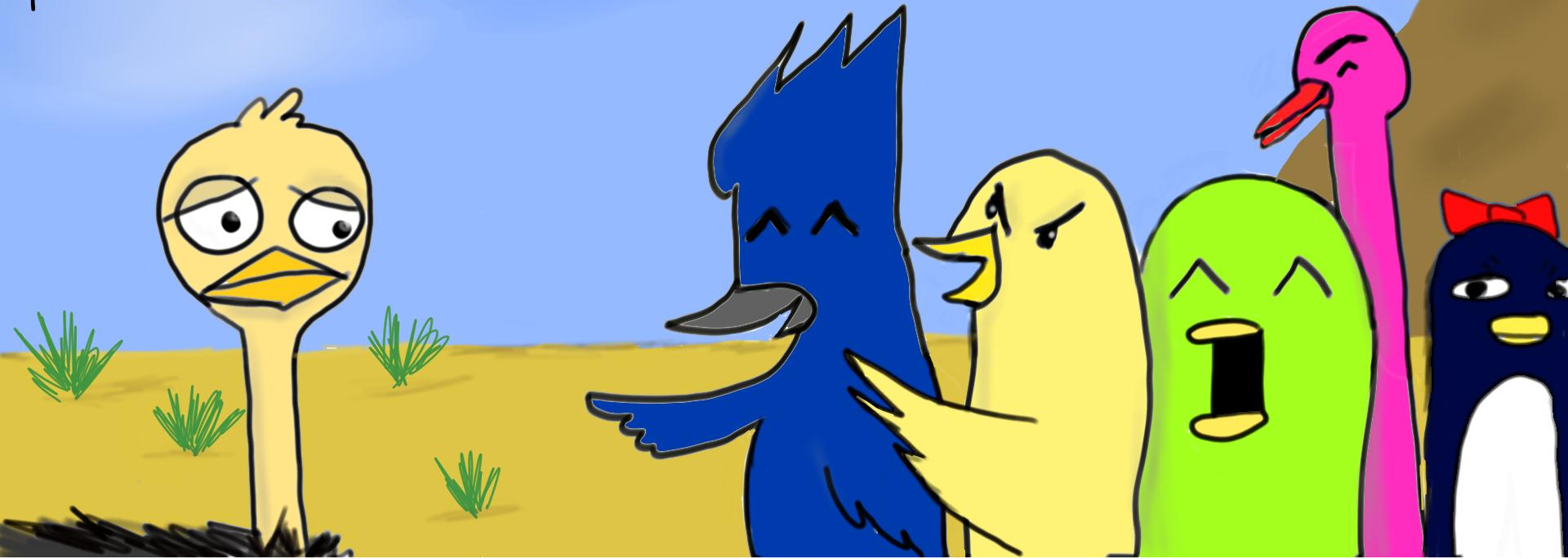
Oddly is an ostrich.
Ostriches can't fly.
Oddly can't fly.
Oddly is not a happy bird.



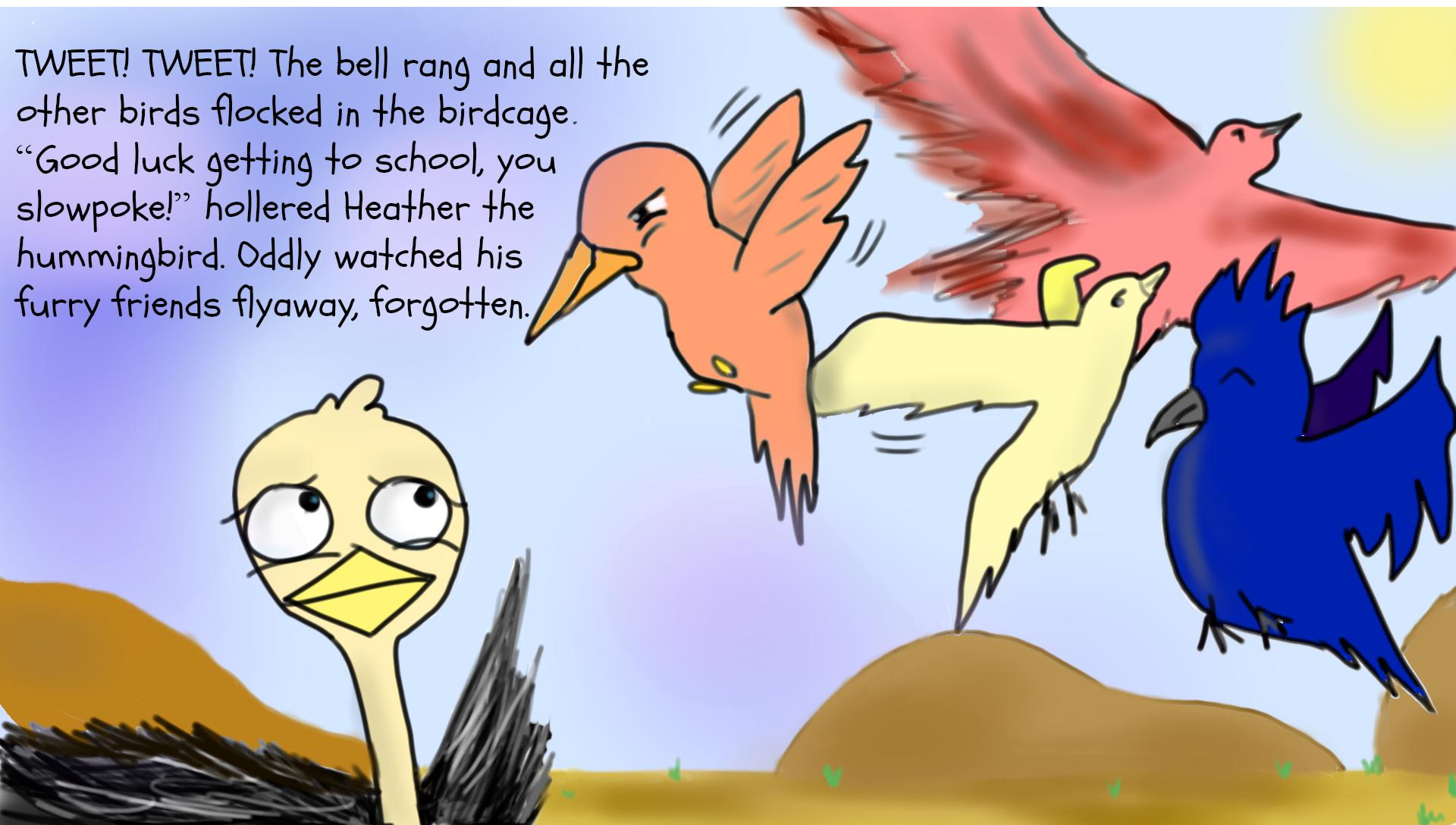
All the other birds
knew that too. They
reminded him of it
everyday



Fay the falcon fussed, "Hey Oddball, you walking to school?" All the other birds twittered loudly. Calvin the canary cackled, "Want me to take you for a ride sometime? Too bad you're too heavy to be in air!" All the other birds exploded with laughter. Oddly shamefully put his head down.



TWEET! TWEET! The bell rang and all the other birds flocked in the birdcage. "Good luck getting to school, you slowpoke!" hollered Heather the hummingbird. Oddly watched his furry friends flyaway, forgotten.



THE TWEET SCHOOL

TWEET! The last bell rang loudly. Everyone in Ms. Toucanana's class was present...all but one peculiar bird. "Where's Oddly?" Ms. Toucanana twittered. "Don't worry about him, Ms. Toucanana." snickered Sandy the seagull. "Yeah, he's always late." giggled Greg the goose.



LATE : ODDLY

BOOM! The door slammed open and a big hairy bird clumsily entered the room. "ODDLY! You have to stop being so late. This isn't the first time!" Ms. Toucana tsked.



All the other birds burst with laughter. "Yeah, what do you expect from a bird who can't even fly?" one bird blurted out.



Oddly's face turned bright crimson as he sat down alone. "You can't fly!" a voice said to Oddly. Oddly looked up and saw Penny the penguin staring down at him. "I know I can't fly, Penny. Just leave me alone!" Oddly squawked angrily. After looking around, Penny whispered, "I can't fly either!"

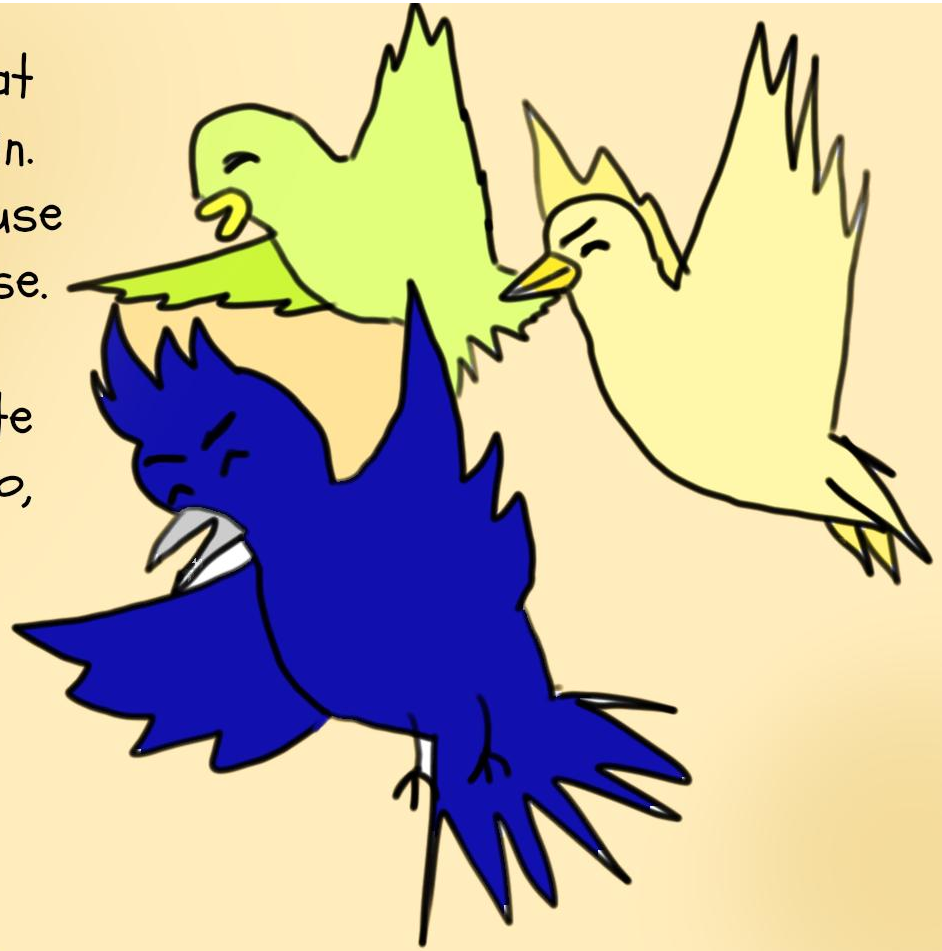
BIRDY ESSAYS ★



“WHAT?” Oddly shouted. “BUT YOU’RE A PENGUIN!” “Penguins can’t fly. We’re too short and our wings are too stubby to be on air.” Penny admitted, ashamed. For the first time, Oddly broke into a huge grin. “COOL! Now, we can both be friends since we both can’t fly!”



"Hey Penny, what are you doing with that flightless loser?" retorted Ron the Robin. "Nothing, guys! I just teasing him because he can't fly!" Penny bursted with surprise. All the birds guffawed and flew away from them. Oddly gave Penny a desperate look, but she laughed with him then too, leaving the big bird in tears.





Oddly walked home glumly. "I'm not the only who can't fly! Why is it only me? That's not fair. I'll fly and show all of them! Even Penny!" he murmured angrily. Suddenly, a light bulb flashed on his head. "Dad! Do we have cardboard boxes at home?" Papa ostrich stuck his head out and smiled at his son. "Hey, son! Well they should be in the garage." Oddly shouted a quick thanks and ran to the garage.

The empty cardboard boxes were waiting for him behind the counter. Oddly quickly picked them and started cutting it with scissors. Papa Ostrich watches his son and finally asked, "Son, what are you doing?" "Can't you see Dad? I'm finally going to fly!" Oddly rejoiced. "Oddly...how many times have I told you? Ostriches can't fly. Our legs are too long. Our bodies are too heavy. Not to mention we don't have ideal wings for flying either!"



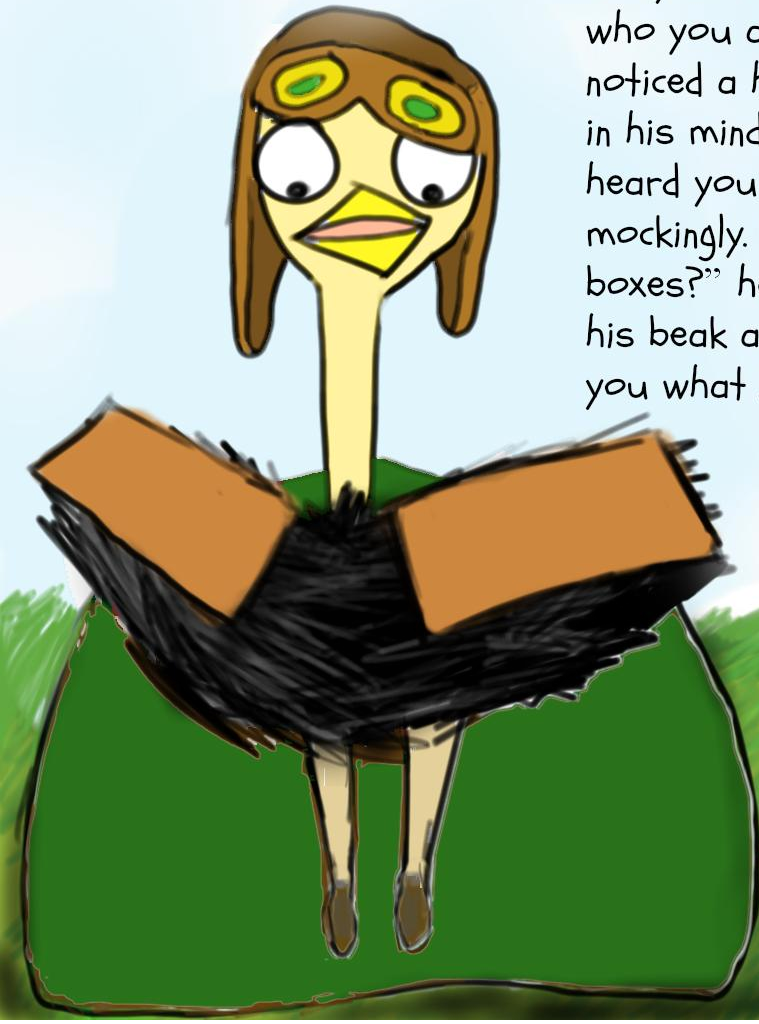
"Then what can ostriches do exactly? Huh?" Oddly sharply remarked. "Hmm.... We can run very fast with our long legs! Our long necks are also ideal for digging. We have very strong talons too!"



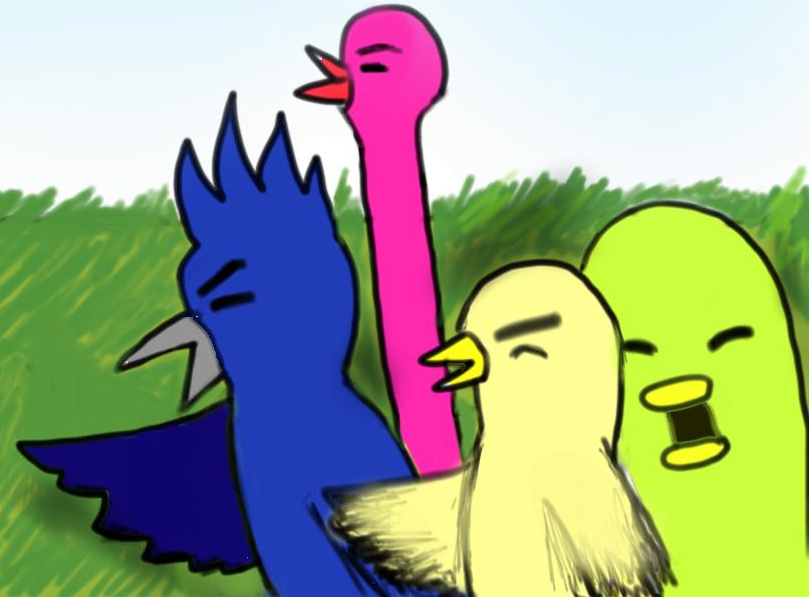
Oddly put his head down and continued to cut the cardboard boxes. He taped the sharp triangle shaped boxes on his wings silently as Papa Ostrich stared at him.

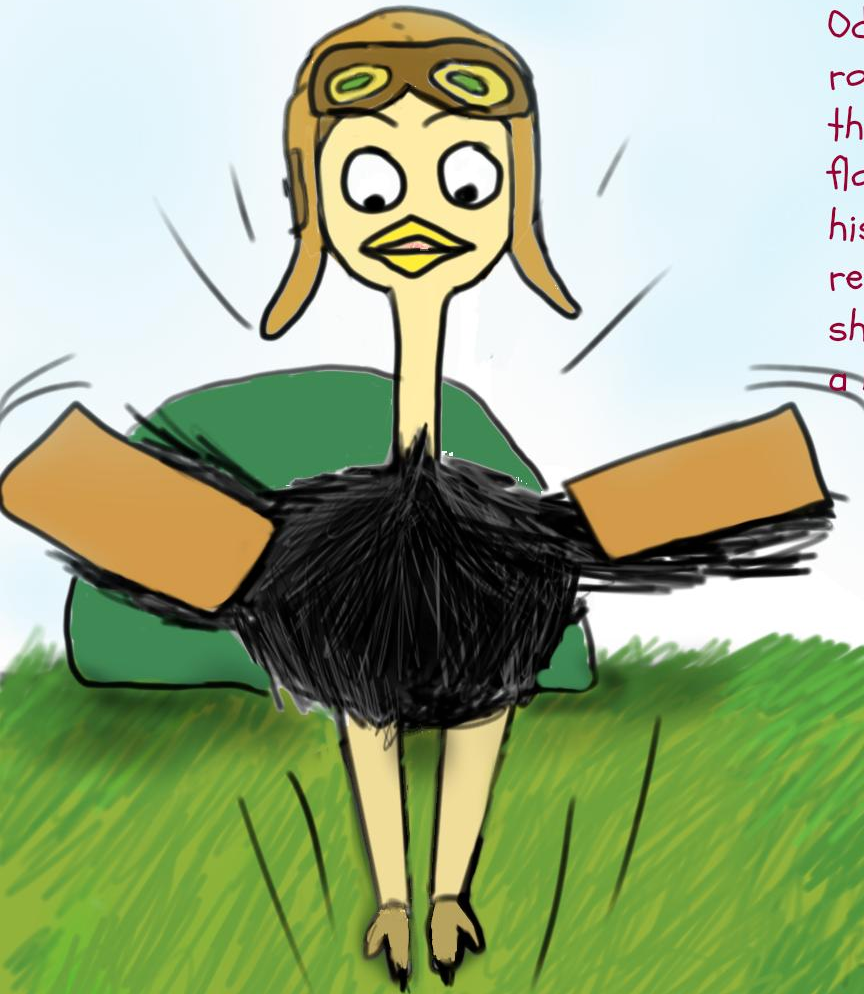
“Oddly, you’re going to get hurt.” Papa ostrich said worriedly. “DAD. I DON’T CARE. ALL THE OTHER BIRDS CAN FLY. I DON’T CARE ABOUT LONG LEGS. I HATE IT. I WISH I COULD JUST FLY LIKE ALL THE OTHER BIRDS. EVEN PENNY THE PENGUIN HAS FRIENDS BECAUSE THEY ALL THINK SHE CAN FLY. I WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH OTHER BIRDS TOO DAD. I CAN FLY TOO.” Oddly cried out bitterly



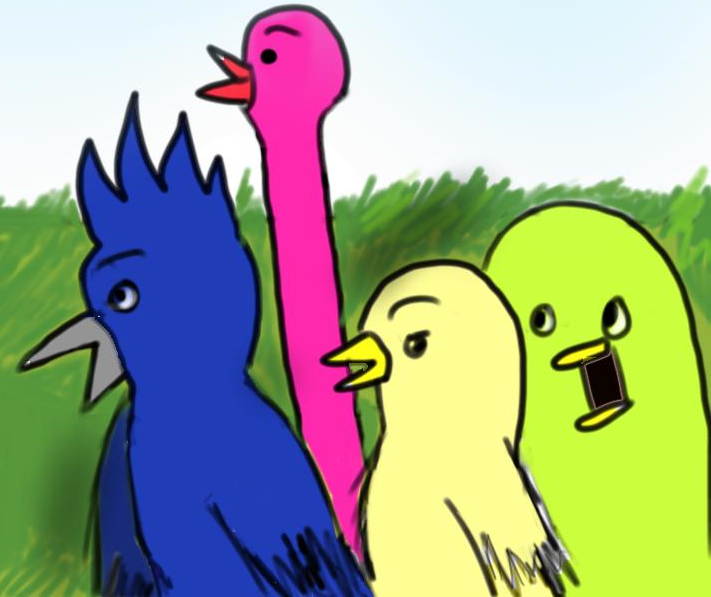


Oddly stormed out of the room, enraged but determined. "You can't change who you are!" Papa ostrich cried out after him. Ignoring his father, Oddly noticed a huge boulder. "Perfect. That's perfect for practice." Oddly thought in his mind. All of the sudden, a flock of birds came in and giggled, "Hey Oddly, heard you're going to fly?" "DAD I CAN FLY!" another bird imitated mockingly. "Hey Oddly, what's that on your stubby wings? Are they really boxes?" howled Henry the hawk. Oddly's face turned bright red. He gritted his beak and shouted to all the laughing birds. "I'll show you! I'll show you what I can do!"





Oddly slowly walked up to the boulder. He saw all the birds rolling on the floor and laughing at him. In the crowd, he noticed there was also Penny giggling at him. Oddly looked down on the floor, then his legs and his wings. He felt relief when he spread his wings. Looking down on the floor was comfort to him, and a relaxed feeling suddenly overwhelmed him. "I can do this!" Oddly shouted. All the birds stopped laughing and stared. Oddly took a huge leap, flapping his wings wildly.



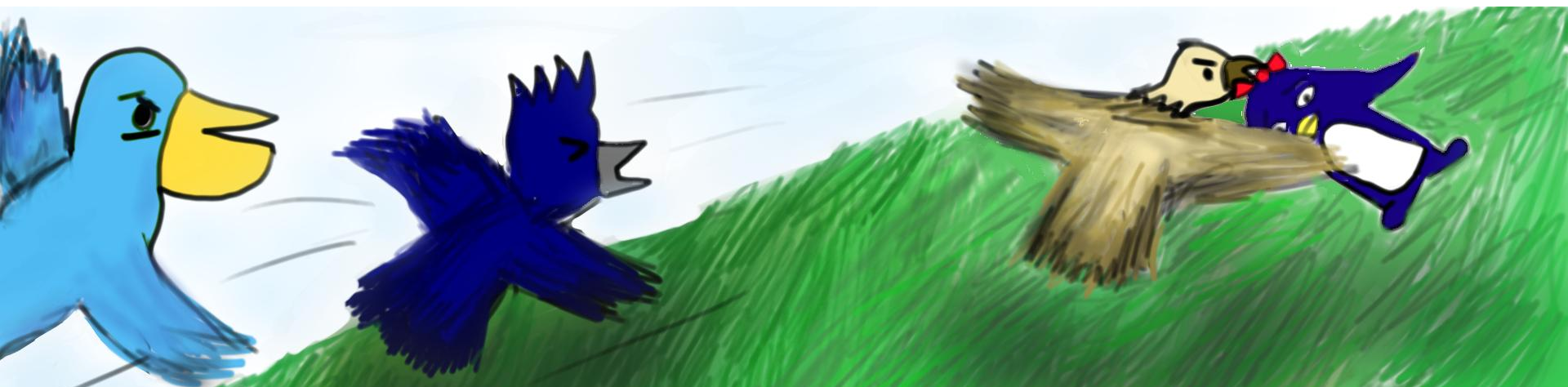


PLOP! Oddly's face crashed onto the ground. Mud spread over him. All the other birds howled with laughter and pointed at him. "What were you saying Oddly?" "You wanna try again buddy?" Tears welled up in Oddly's eyes as he thought, "Dad was right. I can't fly. I can't change who I am!"



WHOOOOOSH! A mysterious figure swooshed down towards the flock and flew away rapidly. The laughter stopped immediately, and panic arose. "PENNY!" Sandy the seagull shouted. Vincent the vulture swooshed Penny the penguin from his beak and smirked. "Sorry guys, but I haven't had lunch."

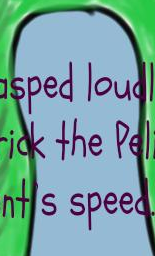




All the other birds screamed. Fay the falcon flustered, "I can rescue her. My sharp beak and my speed can catch Vincent!" She flew up onto the sky but her short wings were not a match for Vincent's huge gray wings flapping on the sky. "He's too fast" she cried out.



Oddly and all the other birds gasped loudly. "Perhaps I can scoop Penny out of there with my large beak!" Patrick the Pelican piped up. Despite the huge beak, he too, was not a match for Vincent's speed.



Oddly thought in his head, "What should I do? What should I do?
What should I do? What should I do?"



Suddenly, his dad's words popped in his brain. "Long legs fit for running. Sharp talons." He thought. "Well, here comes nothing!"



Oddly ran straight like a bullet. "LET HER GO!" he shouted. He dashed as fast as he could and felt the wind surging through his feathers. Taken by surprise, Vincent dropped Penny. Patrick swooshed down and caught her with his enormous beak. Fay the falcon pecked Vincent violently. Vincent yelped and sped away rapidly.



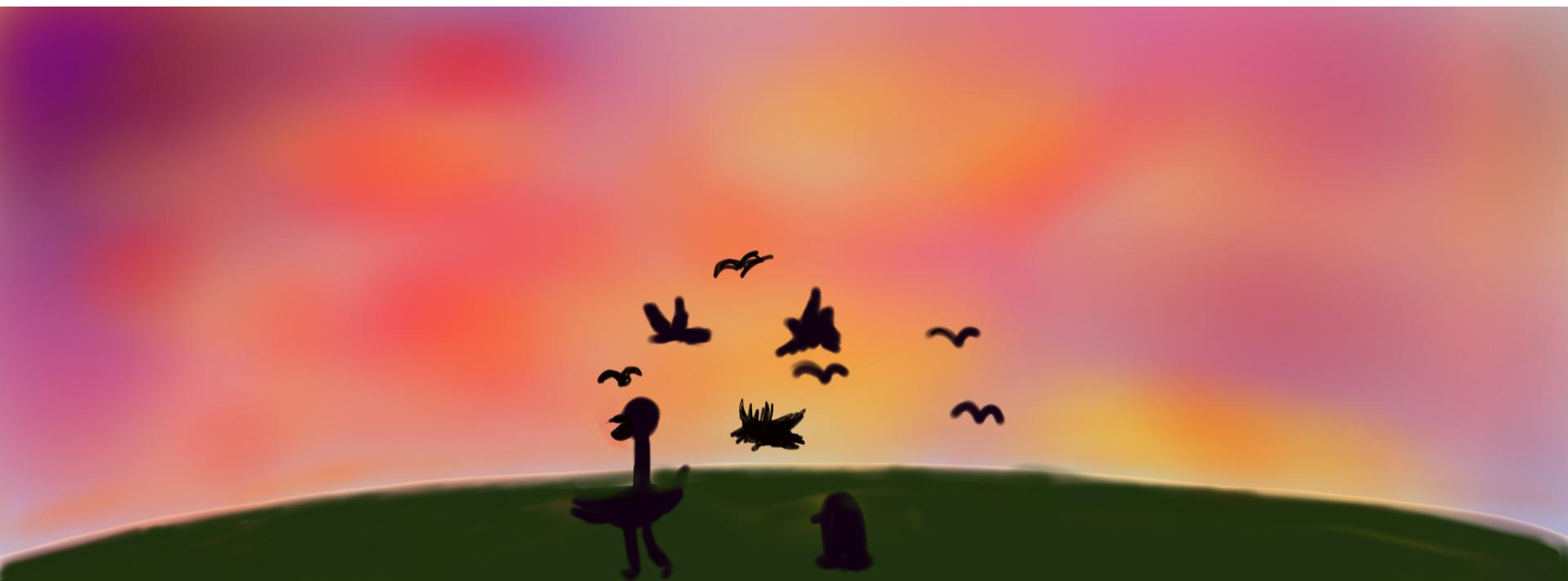
Penny waddled towards the flock, ashamed. All the other birds stared at Oddly with amazement. "Woah! Did you see Oddly? He was like lightning!" they whispered to each other. "Penny, why didn't you just jump and fly away?" one bird asked. Penny, with tears in her eyes whimpered, "I can't fly." All the birds gasped.

-“WELL Who cares if she can fly or not? I can’t fly either! I mean did you see me fall?” Oddly bursted out giggling. “Oddly, what you did there was amazing!” Calvin chirped loudly. “You were so fast!” shrilled Sandy the seagull. “Well, I couldn’t have rescued Penny without Patrick and Fay!” Oddly smiled. Patrick and Fay said sheepishly, “Oddly, we’re really sorry about what we said. Without you, Penny couldn’t have been saved!” All the feathery pals gathered around Oddly, apologizing and complimenting him.





Penny peeped sadly, "I'm sorry I laughed at you Oddly. I just didn't want to get bullied either." "It's alright. We all have talents! It's kind of funny I was ashamed to show it off. I mean look at Patrick, and his huge beak. Look at Fay with her sharp beak! Everyone here is different!" Oddly laughed out loud. All the other birds giggled too. Even Penny the penguin admitted she was more of a swimmer.



Yes, Oddly is an ostrich. Oddly definitely can't fly. Not even if he tried really hard. But he doesn't care anymore. His friends don't care either. Oddly may not be able to fly like most birds, but he is still a happy bird.