

Flying together

Deep in a forest stood a very tall tree. Its **leafy** branches spread out like strong arms.

This tree was the home of a **flock** of wild **geese**. They felt safe there. One of the geese was a wise old bird.

He noticed a small **creeper** at the foot of the tree. He spoke to the other birds about it.

“Do you see that creeper?” he said to them. “Let us destroy it”.

“Why must we destroy it?” asked the geese in surprise.

“It is so small. What harm can it do?” “My friends,” replied the **wise** old bird, “that little creeper will soon grow. As it **creeps up** this tree, it will become thick and strong.”

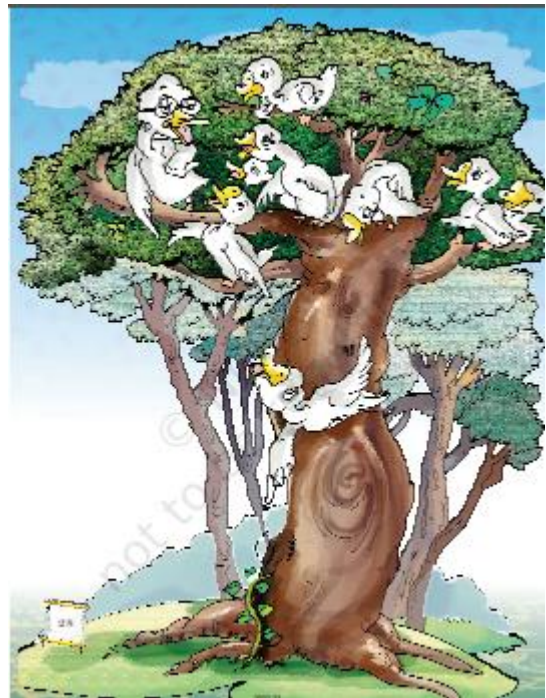
“What of that?” asked the geese. “What harm can a creeper do us?”

“Don't you see?” replied the wise bird, “with the help of that creeper, it will be possible for someone to climb this tree. A hunter can come up and kill us all.”

“Well there's no hurry,” they replied, “the creeper is very small. It would be a **pity** to destroy it now.”

“Destroy the creeper while it is still young,” the old bird advised. “Now it is **tender** and you can cut it easily. Later it will become hard and you will not be able to cut it.”

“We'll see, we'll see,” answered the birds. But they did not destroy the creeper. . They forgot the wise old bird's advice. As the creeper grew, it began **winding its way** up the tree.



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Stronger and stronger it became, until it was as strong as a thick rope.

One morning when the geese had gone out in search of food, a hunter came to the forest.

“So this is where the wild geese live,” he said to himself.

“When they come back in the evening, I shall catch them.”

The hunter climbed up the tree with the help of the creeper. He got to the top and spread his net there. Then he climbed down and went away.

In the evening, the geese returned home. They did not notice the net. As they flew into the tree, they were trapped. They struggled hard to get out, but could not.

“Help! Help!” cried the geese. “We are caught in the hunter’s net. Oh! What shall we do?”

“Don’t **make a fuss** now,” said the wise old bird. “Long ago I told you to destroy the creeper, but you did not. Now see what has happened. Tomorrow morning the hunter will come back and kill us all.”

“We were foolish,” **wept** the birds. “We are very sorry we did not listen to you. Please tell us what to do?”

“Then listen carefully,” replied the wise bird. “When the hunter comes you must all **pretend** to be dead. Just lie still. The hunter will not want dead birds. He will throw us to the ground. It will then be easy for him to climb down, collect the dead birds, and take them home. When the last of us has been thrown down, we must quickly get up and fly away.”

In the morning the hunter came to the tree and climbed up. He looked at the geese in the net.

“They are all dead,” he **muttered** to himself. He threw them out of the net one by one. The birds **lay** still until the last one had been thrown down. Then, all at once, they got up, **flapped** their wings, and flew away.

The hunter was taken by surprise. From the top of the tree he watched all the geese fly away.



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Vocabulary

1. **Leafy** (adjective) – Full of leaves; abounding in leaves; as, the leafy forest.
पत्तीदार
2. **Flock** (noun) – crowd, throng, mass, herd, swarm झुंड
3. **Geese** (noun) – a large white bird that is like a duck, but bigger. हंस
4. **Creeper** (noun) – a plant that grows up trees or walls or along the ground वृक्षों, दीवारों के सहारे चढ़ने वाला या ज़मीन पर फैलने वाला पौधा
5. **Wise** (adjective) – sensible, intelligent, smart, judicious, prudent बुद्धिमान
6. **Creep up** (phrasal verb) – to slowly and quietly move closer to without being noticed चढ़ना, सरकना
7. **Pity** (noun) – A feeling of sympathy and sorrow for the misfortunes of others दया, तरस, रहम
8. **Tender** (adjective) – soft, fragile कोमल
9. **Wind one's way** (phrase) – To move or progress at a gradual pace along a twisting or circuitous path or route
10. **Make a fuss** (phrase) – become angry and complain हंगामा करना
11. **Weep** (verb) –mourn, grieve, wail, bawl, cry रोना
12. **Pretend** (verb) –Make believe with the intent to deceive बहाना करना
13. **Mutter** (verb) –Talk indistinctly; usually in a low voice बड़बड़ाना।
14. **Lay** (verb) –Put into a certain place or abstract location लिटाना
15. **Flap** (verb) –to move (something) up and down or from side to side, especially in the wind (पंखों आदि का) फड़फड़ाना