



Bug Club

This is your free
sample of **Daring Deeds.**



Packed with terrific tales, fantastic facts and playful poems!

DARING DEEDS!



Poetry Pulse: How does it feel to survive a hurricane?



Real World: Can pigeons help to win wars?



DARING DEEDS!

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READ ALL ABOUT IT IN THE BUG MAGAZINE!

Hummingbird

by Trish Cooke

Here in Dominica,
I have made my home.
I have witnessed much,
Heard of great storms,
But they were all before my time.
Hummmmmmm
Storm Erika is coming ...

I see the change in the sky.
The trees murmur,
Move!
Get out of the way!

Hummmmmmm
Storm Erika is coming ...

Rain falls heavily.
I ride the air,
Swiftly manoeuvre,
Flap those wings
Backwards and forwards,
Flip over,
Hover ...

Hummmmmmm
Erika is here!

How she wrestles
With this glorious land,
Determined to leave her stamp!

Hummingbirds on Dominica

There are four species of hummingbird found on the island of Dominica. Although these birds are tiny, they can fly even in strong winds and heavy rain.



Storm Erika

Storm Erika hit the island of Dominica on the 27th of August, 2015. The storm caused huge mudslides and flooding. Hundreds of people lost their homes, and many died.

Dodging the raindrops,
I search for food,
Shift my body and my tail,
Beat my wings faster and faster,
Twist and turn;
Then I dive,
Finding somewhere to hide
(Hummmmmmm)
Until the rain subsides.

Hummmmmmm
I wonder,
Where am I going to go?

Hummmmmmm
I wonder,
Where am I going to live?

Hummmmmmm
Everything is gone ...

I will wait for the sun.
Then
I will rebuild my home ...

Pigeons Rule the Roost!

by Debora
Pearson



**Look up in the sky!
It's a bird ...
it's a pigeon!**

Have you ever seen a flock of pigeons? These quiet birds seem ordinary, but they have a special talent: they can find their way home, even when they are far from it!

In ancient times, a pigeon's homing ability was useful when people were exploring or fighting wars and needed to send information home. They used pigeons that were trained to carry messages attached to their backs or legs. When the birds were released, they flew directly home with the information.



Soldiers in World War I and World War II also used pigeons to carry messages from the battlefields to their leaders back home, because pigeons were speedy and reliable.

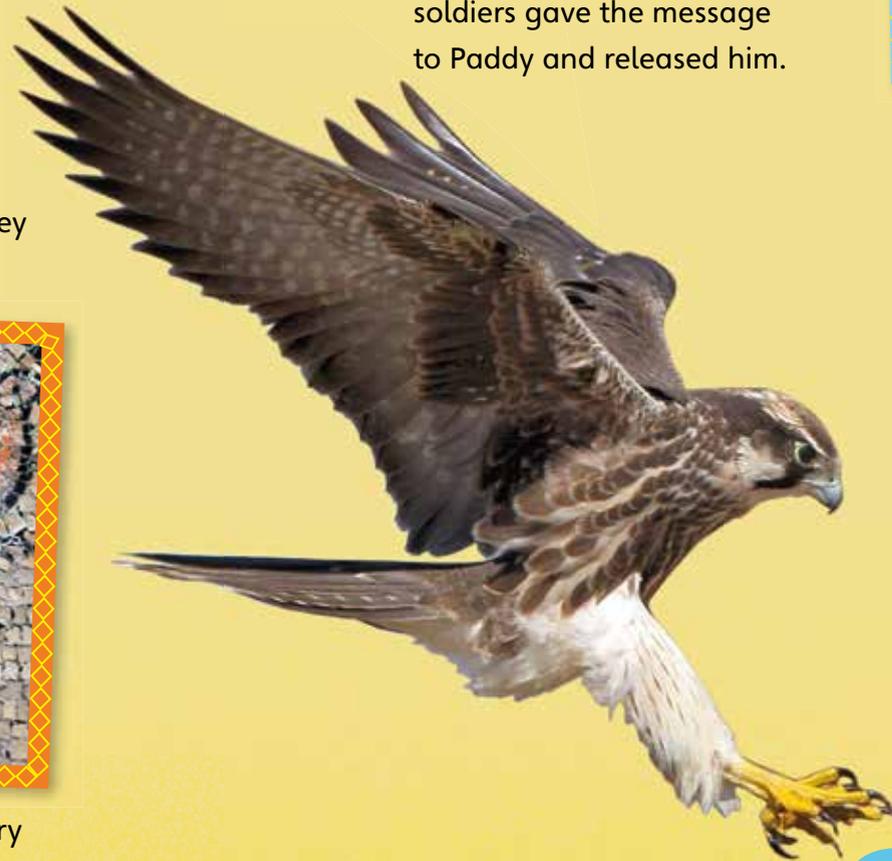
The pigeon secret service

During World War II, Paddy the pigeon was given a top-secret mission. He had to deliver a message from the British soldiers in Normandy, in northern France, to army headquarters in Britain. The message was urgent and it had to be sent silently so the enemy wouldn't know. The soldiers gave the message to Paddy and released him.



It was going to be a difficult journey. Paddy might even run into deadly birds of prey that belonged to enemy soldiers, as the soldiers had trained them to kill messenger pigeons.

Less than five hours later, though, Paddy *did* arrive safely at headquarters! He had completed his mission – and he'd also set a record for the fastest time of any messenger pigeon flying from Normandy during the war!



Fly on over to the next page to find out about another daring pigeon!



Plucky Pigeon Saves Four Airmen after Plane Crash!



Yesterday, the crew of a British bomber aeroplane had an adventure that will never be forgotten. The four men were returning home from a mission in Norway when their plane was struck by enemy fire.

The crew was able to radio their airbase in Scotland and say, "We're going down!" – but there was no time to give their location. The plane was about to crash into the North Sea.

Good news and bad news

After the crash, there was good news: the men were still alive. However, there was bad news too: their radio was damaged. No-one at the airbase knew where they were – and the water was icy cold.

If the men weren't rescued soon, they wouldn't survive.

Fortunately, there was help close by. Many of our planes in this war carry messenger pigeons to help out in emergencies. This crew had a pigeon named Winkie. She was released and quickly flapped away.



Wings of hope

Winkie was in an unfamiliar place. She was also covered in oil from the plane crash. Would she make it back to Scotland? The men shivered and hoped for the best.

Winkie flew over 100 miles without stopping and arrived

home exhausted. The officers at the airbase used the information that Winkie gave them to find the crew in time.

Their adventure could have ended badly. But, thanks to one plucky pigeon, the men are now safely home!

High-flying heroes

Pigeon heroes Paddy and Winkie received important honours for their courageous actions. They were given the Dickin Medal, the highest award that animals can receive for helping others in wartime. The Dickin Medal was created during World War II by Maria Dickin, a British woman who cared deeply for animals. It has also been given to horses and dogs.

Over 60 years after Paddy received this award, he was honoured again. In 2009, a Paddy Memorial Day was held in Northern Ireland, where Paddy was born and raised. Special events on that day included a fly-past of pigeons!



Other creatures in combat

Pigeons are not the only animals to have served in wars. Long ago, horses, elephants and camels carried soldiers and their supplies into battle because these animals could haul heavy loads.

During wars today, dogs also help out. They use their keen sense of smell to sniff out bombs before they explode.



Is it right to use animals for dangerous wartime work?



Yes! Animals have special abilities that can help people and save lives.

It's not fair – animals can't choose to go to war! No-one has the right to make that decision for an animal.

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