



FLIP-FLOP
04.01.02

The Wolf of Gubbio.

This storybook belongs to:

Name:..... **Age:**.....

Class:..... **School:**.....

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THE LITTLE RED-BREASTED BIRDS

(2Cel 47)



One day after dinner Saint Francis was sitting at a table talking with his brothers. Two little robin red-breasts came up, one male and the other female. They had a family of newly-hatched nestlings to feed and they were looking for food to take home to their hungry babies.

So they were glad that the brothers allowed them to pick up the crumbs left on the table and take them home to their hungry baby birds. They came again the next day, and the next, day after day.

The brothers encouraged the red-breasts to visit their dinner table even keeping tasty little pieces of food for them because they loved the pretty little creatures and were very glad to welcome them.

After a few weeks the parent birds brought their little family to the friary table and the brothers were delighted by them and filled with joy at God's goodness. The little baby birds were now old enough to fend for themselves, but the parents wanted to make sure that they would still be

fed. So after presenting their little ones to the brothers they flew away and did not visit the friary again.

The young robins soon grew tame with the brothers and would perch on their hands and upon their heads as though they belonged to the house. If visitors came the red-breasts kept out of sight until the brothers were by themselves once more. Saint Francis was astonished at this and he invited the brothers to rejoice. "See," he said, "What our brothers with the red-breasts have done. They trusted us completely because we nourished their babies with our crumbs. The parents have given their family to us and have gone away to a new home."



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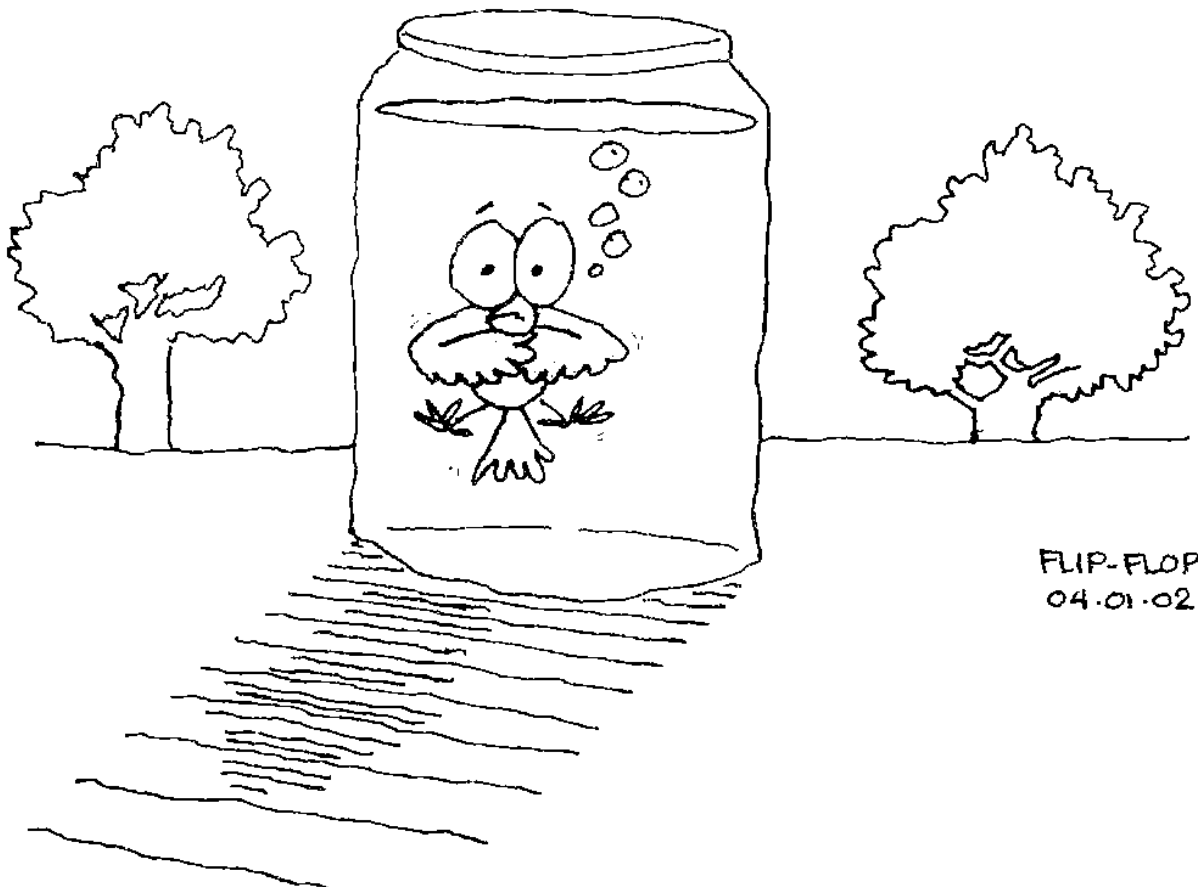
So the red-breasts became completely tame with the brothers and they took their food from the friary table. All was peace and harmony.

But the peace was broken at last by one greedy robin who ate more than his share. Bigger and stronger than the others he terrorised the smaller birds and bullied them. After eating all he wanted he drove the others away from the table pecking at them cruelly.

At this Saint Francis became very sad and said. "See what this greedy one is doing. Even though he is full and satisfied he envies his hungry

brothers and bullies them; he will surely come to a bad end. Just wait and see.” Shortly after this the greedy bird flew up on a big jug of water to drink and he slipped, fell into the water and was drowned.

Being greedy and bullying others is surely a horrible evil if it is punished in such a way in a little bird. We should be grateful for all the gifts we have, and be willing to share with others.



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