



Hungarian stamp, 1960 Public domain

Crow was sitting on the branch of a tree near an old farmhouse.

He was thinking about food.

At that very moment, he spotted something that made him fluff up his feathers with excitement.

It was a piece of cheese.

There it was, lying all by itself on the kitchen table, just begging to be eaten.

Crow started thinking deep thoughts.

'That piece of cheese looks to me as if it is unguarded.'

'If I'm quick, the farmer's wife won't see me.'

'I'll swoop down, grab it in full flight and disappear before she's any the wiser.'

And that is exactly what happened.

'Caw! That was the easiest snack I've found in a long time.'

'I'll now fly up and hide in amongst the cool leaves of this tree.'

'Eating is best enjoyed alone.'

'When I'm hidden from view, I'll be able enjoy my prize in peace and not be pestered by other birds.'

Crow didn't actually say any of these words out loud. He was too busy holding the cheese in his beak ...

... but these were more or less the thoughts he was thinking in his head.

'My next task is to find a branch where the leaves are the thickest.'

'I don't want any interruptions while partaking of this joyous morsel.'

And so Crow hopped from branch to branch to check which one was best.

Ways to read this story

This story is suitable for school and home. Some 'how to read' ideas are below.

- With a partner or small group, take it in turns to read the rows.
- Don't rush! This helps you to say each word clearly.
- Think of yourselves as actors by adding lots of facial and vocal expression. Small gaps of silence also create dramatic energy. These techniques will bring the story to life.
- If you meet a new word, give it a go and then move on.
- Don't be scared of unusual words. They will become your new best friends. (New words strengthen your general knowledge and enable you to become vocabulary-rich in your day-to-day life.)

Have fun!