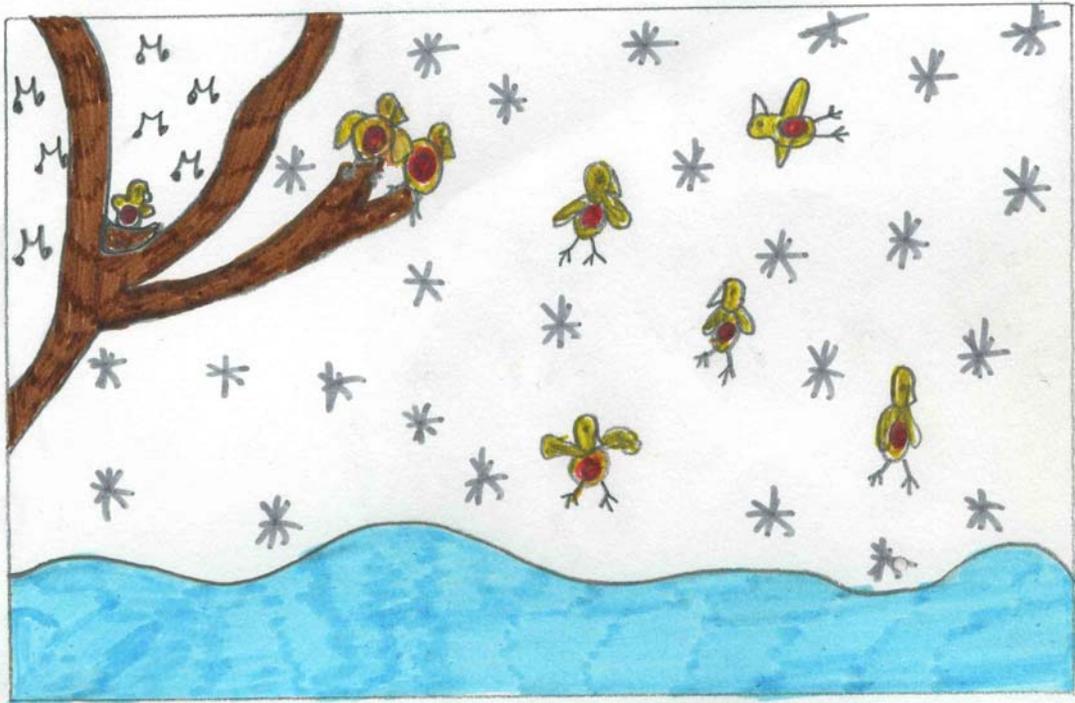


Tabitha's Story



Once on a snowy christmas two robins had some Babies. They were all small and round with a red brest. But The robins could all fly, all But one. Its name was Fluffy. All The other robins teased him and made fun of him. They would say "Fluffy cant fly, fluffy cant fly" and fluffy wouldnt like it. So one day fluffy taught Them a lessor. He suddenly sang to his hearts content. All the other robins were suddenly serprized Because it sounded Beautiful and Sweet. As soon as fluffy sang the world seemed calm and gentle. "wow what was that" chirped mother ROBIN. "oh it was me singing" said fluffy. "That was amazing- even if you cant fly singing is much Better and more fantastic Than flying" and any way I am shore you will Be able to fly in the end.

Why I have posted Tabitha's Story

Tabitha (aged 9), a Music at Heart recorder pupil, wrote this story during the school holidays. On one level, it may be read as a simple and charming story; on a deeper level it reveals the principles of the Suzuki philosophy at work in a child's life:

Fluffy suddenly sang...

- Tabitha emphasizes that Fluffy's song came unexpectedly, out of nowhere
 - we can't and shouldn't force children to do things before they are developmentally ready; within the human brain there is a natural order in which learning is programmed to take place
 - In our fast-moving, competitive world where success is so often measured in terms of quantifiable achievement, this is often easier said than done - but in the long run it is much better to nurture a happy and fulfilled human being rather than an unhappy and pressured one

... to his heart's content

- Tabitha draws our attention to the importance of singing in our lives

... it sounded beautiful and sweet

- She also highlights the significance of the presence of beauty in our environment

As soon as Fluffy sang the world seemed calm and gentle

- Tabitha senses the healing effects of music, both on the music-maker and the listener

That was amazing - even if you can't fly singing is much better and more fantastic than flying

- She reflects her experience of receiving a parent's love
 - The mother robin expresses this love by celebrating her child's singing achievement and showing affirmation, praising her child for what he can do now, rather than dwelling on what he can't yet do
 - Environment nurtures growth

I am sure you will be able to fly in the end

- Tabitha demonstrates her understanding of the value of commitment and perseverance
 - The mother robin encourages her child with an expression of unstinting faith in his abilities
 - Every child can learn