



## Read-Aloud Side by Side

2



Sean and Trevor are brothers. They love to compete.

Who can run the fastest? Who can make the longest caterpillar out of clay? Who can build the tallest tower?

3



Today their parents are taking them to a bird sanctuary. "It's a place where birds can live safely and in peace," their mom says.

4



The family travels through the woods. Trevor and Sean use their parents' binoculars to spot a blue jay building a nest out of twigs. That's when Trevor has an idea for a game.

"Let's see who can find the longest stick," says Trevor. "I'm going to win!"

"We'll see!" Sean says. He races to search beneath a nearby tree. Trevor looks along the path.

 **Ask:** "What do you notice? What do you wonder?"

5



Sean finds a stick first. “Ah-ha!” he says, holding it up.

Trevor finds a stick, too. He stands next to his brother, hoping the one *he* found is longer. But it isn’t.

“I won!” Sean jumps for joy.

Trevor grumbles.

6



The path leads them to a marsh. On the lake, ducks and geese paddle past. But the brothers aren’t looking.

“Let’s see who can find the longest goose print,” says Sean.

They search the edge of the lake. Trevor won’t allow Sean to beat him this time.

“I found a goose print!” says Sean. “It’s longer than this wood chip here.”

“I found a goose footprint, too,” says Trevor. “It’s longer than the footprint you found!”

Trevor is right. The goose print *he* found is longer than *two* of Sean’s wood chips.

 **Ask:** “What do you notice? What do you wonder?”

7



“I bet you can’t find the tallest flower,” says Trevor.

“I bet I can!” says Sean. He searches the field of blue flowers.

“There!” He points to one that grows high above the others.

But the one Trevor finds on the other side of the field is even taller!

8



At the education center, their mom says they can read about the birds they have seen.

But the boys have other ideas.

“Whoever finds the bird with the widest wings is the winner,” says Trevor, searching a wall of photographs.

Sean points to the ceiling, where a wooden bald eagle hangs, its wings spread open. “I won!” he says.

9



At the snack bar, all the boys can think about is winning the next game.

They each grab a salted pretzel stick. “Whoever has the longest pretzel is the winner!” says Sean. They plop down to see.

Sean lines up his pretzel against Trevor’s and smiles. Sean wins again.

 **Ask:** “What do you notice? What do you wonder?”

10



After their snack, the boys are full and tired. “One more game,” Sean says.

Trevor grins. “I’m going to win!”

They skip behind their parents towards the lake.

11



“So, what should we look for?” Trevor asks.

But Sean has gone quiet. His mouth opens into a big O.

In front of them is the tallest bird they’ve ever seen. It has silvery feathers and a long, pointed beak. It hops into the air and flutters its big wings. It’s a crane!

They watch the crane dance until it spreads its wings and soars above them.

12



All the way home the boys compete for the wildest exaggeration about the crane.

“It was as tall as a building!”

“Its wings spread as wide as a truck!”

“Its beak was as long as my arm!”

13



On and on they go until finally they fall asleep, both of them forgetting who won which game, and who lost the other.

Instead they dream about the crane’s silver feathers, and its long, beautiful neck.