

## The Error Bird

Once upon a time, there was a little girl who had an error bird. The error bird was dark blue, as dark as blue ink, and it shone and shimmered beautifully.

Now when the little girl did her homework, she wrote and reckoned and tried her best, but she still made an awful lot of mistakes. It didn't matter though, because when she finished, she simply shouted: "Error bird, eat! And the error bird came flying and ate away all the errors and blotches of ink.

One day a schoolmate said: "Oh, I wish I were as smart as you; you never make any mistakes, and I always make so many."

"Yes," said the little girl, "I have an error bird. When I say to my error bird: 'Error bird eat!', he eats all my mistakes away."

"Oh", said the schoolmate, "I'll come over this afternoon and bring all my notebooks with me."

"Yes, do that," said the little girl.

But in the afternoon, the schoolmate did not arrive alone; many other girls and boys had joined him, and they all stumbled into the little girl's room with all their notebooks. The little girl spread out all the notebooks in front of the error bird and said: "Error bird, eat!" And the error bird ate and ate and ate and ate, and all of a sudden, there was a bang. The error bird had burst! And since it had been full of ink and mistakes, all the ink stains and mistakes flew back into the

notebooks. Now the children stood there and had as many mistakes in the notebooks as before, plus many more.

And the error bird lay on its back, dead as a doornail.