

Elvis and the Feathers School of Music



Illustrated by

Emily Lim

Laura Liberatore

Elvis and the Feathers School of Music

Emily Lim

Illustrated by

Laura Liberatore





FEATHERS
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
SUNGEI BULOH
NATURE RESERVE

Every morning, a flock of birds got together for one reason.

“Robin, you take the lead,” said Owl.
“Woodpecker, come in on the second verse.
Flamingos, you are the backup singers.
Cockatoo, you hit the high notes.
Kingfisher, let’s hear you sing the bass.
Everyone else will join in the chorus!”

Feathers School of Music was known to only accept birds since they have the best voices.



There was one extra student,
Elvis, who took his lessons
from behind the bushes.



I don't think this school will ever take me since I'm not good enough, Elvis sighed. So, he practised his singing alone.



One day, Elvis overheard exciting news.

“We will be putting up a big concert,”
said Owl. “Everyone will have a
chance to sing. But for the finale,
we need the six best voices.”





News spread and soon, birds from near and far came to try out for these six important spots. Everyone also knew that the best voices earned the most food from visitors.



Soon, five of the singing spots were filled. Only one spot was left!



Elvis thought and
thought about the last
spot in the concert till
he could not sleep.





One night,
Elvis went
back to school.
He climbed onto the stage
and sang with all his heart:

“Nobody knows how much I love singing.
Nobody knows my dreams to
better my life for tomorrow.
Nobody knows how much I love singing.
But I can only sing in secret sorrow.”

Suddenly, Elvis heard clapping.

“Bravo!” cheered Owl. “Your voice is perfect for the final spot. Would you like to be part of the concert? I can give you a few music lessons!”



Elvis learnt quickly
all that Owl taught
and practised hard
for the big day.



A few birds grumbled.
“How can a frog attend our
school?” complained Magpie.



“This nature reserve belongs to us because of our lovely singing. A frog isn’t good enough to join our concert!” Parrot said.

“If the frog sings too well, visitors will start to give him our food!” Kingfisher complained.



Owl replied, "Everybody has a right to an education and opportunities to develop their potential."

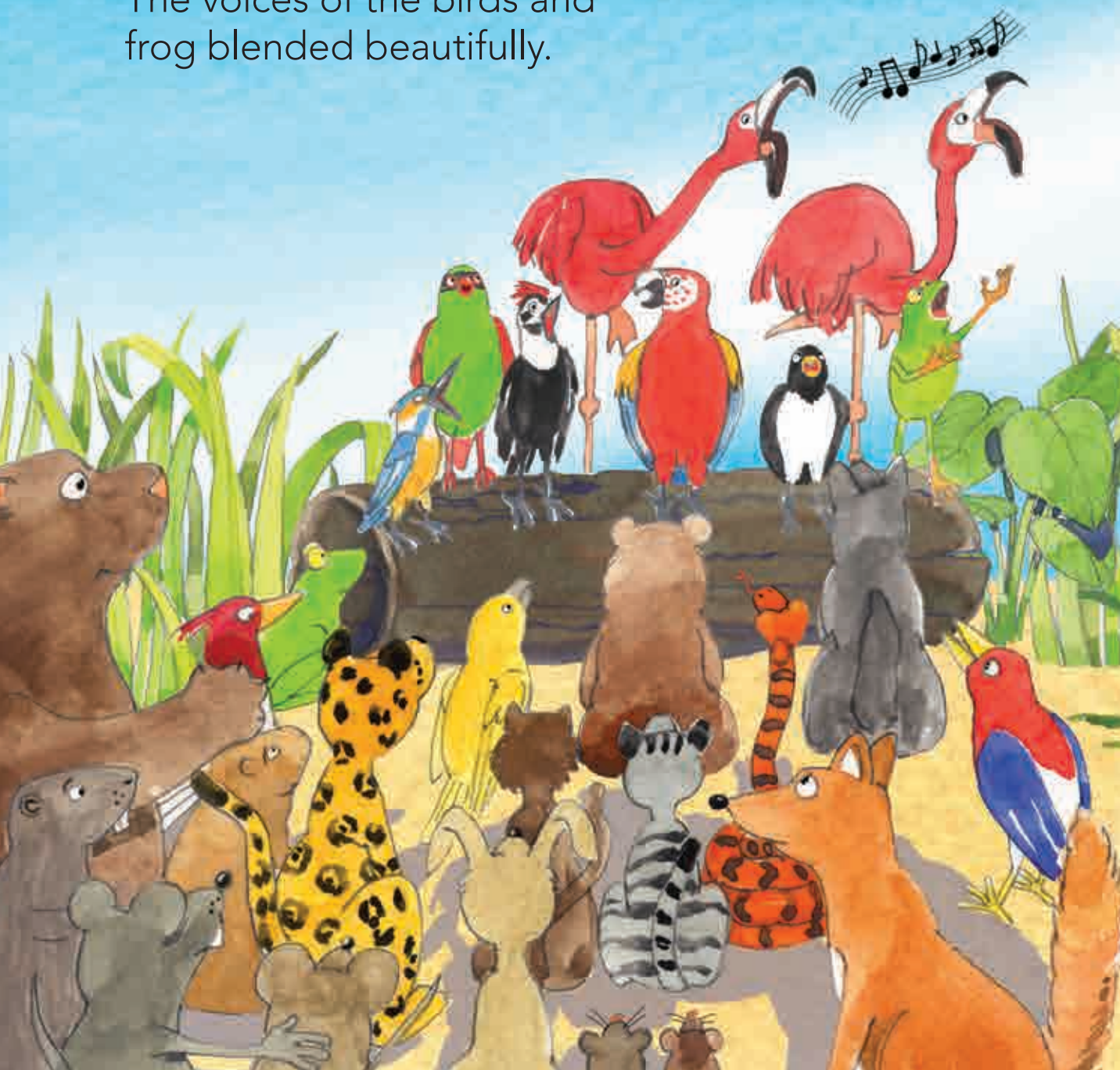


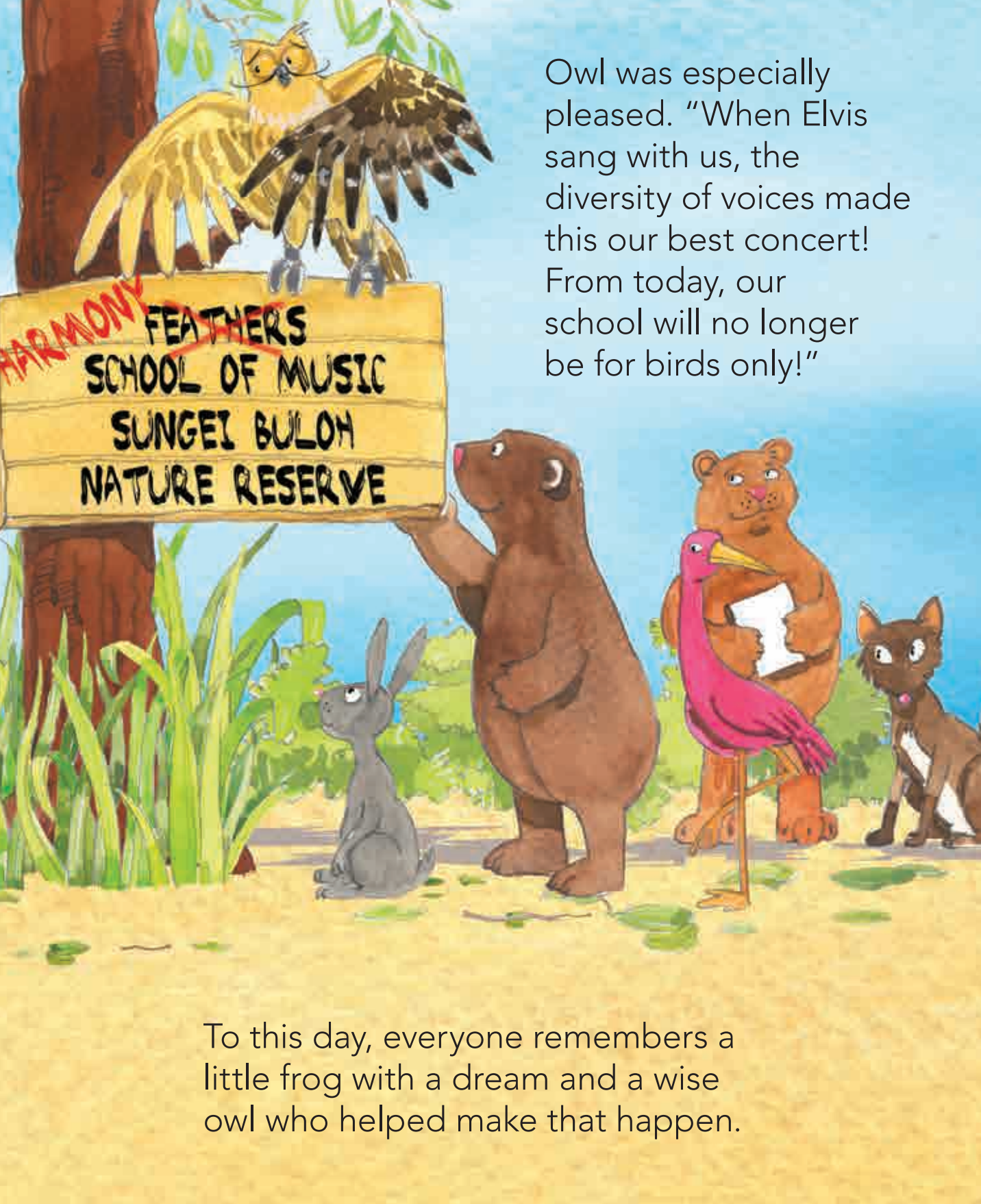
“Everyone should also have a chance to work towards a better life as that is good for our community as a whole,” said Owl.



Meanwhile, news spread of a little frog singing in a school of birds. A huge crowd turned up to watch the concert.

The voices of the birds and frog blended beautifully.





Owl was especially pleased. "When Elvis sang with us, the diversity of voices made this our best concert! From today, our school will no longer be for birds only!"

To this day, everyone remembers a little frog with a dream and a wise owl who helped make that happen.



Children have a right to survival and development in all aspects of their lives, including the physical, emotional, psycho-social, cognitive, social and cultural.

– Article 6 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child



Elvis has a good ear for music and a passion to develop his singing ability. Owl offers him an education to develop his potential. Eventually, Feathers School of Music opens its doors to other animals in the community so they can also reach the highest level of music education they are capable of.





About Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF)

The Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) aims to bring a sharper focus on enhancing social safety nets for the needy, improving the delivery of social services, and further strengthening families. At MSF, we are professionals with passion for people. Through our policies, community infrastructure, programmes and services, we hope to nurture resilient individuals and families, and play a part in helping our citizens achieve their hopes and aspirations for themselves and their families.

Emily Lim is an award-winning author of numerous children's books. She is the first outside North America to win three medals for children's books at the IPPY Awards, the world's largest book awards. She is also the first in Southeast Asia to win the Moonbeam Children's Book Award.

Laura Liberatore is an award-winning illustrator of over 20 books. Her awards include *Best Children's Book of the Year* awarded by the Venezuela Book Council and *Best Book of the Year* by the National Library in Venezuela.

Copyright © 2013 Ministry of Social and Family Development, Singapore

Published by Ministry of Social and Family Development, Singapore

Ministry of Social and Family Development
MSF Building 512 Thomson Road Singapore 298136
Tel: 6355 5000 Fax: 6353 6695
Email: msf_email@msf.gov.sg
www.msf.gov.sg

Produced by Write Editions®

Write Editions® is a registered trademark and an imprint of
JMatrix Consulting Private Limited, Singapore
A Publishing & Communications Co.
14 Robinson Road #13-00 Far East Finance Building Singapore 048545
Email: publisher@writeeditions.com
writeeditions.com | jmatrix.co

Story concept and art direction by Emily Lim

Illustrations by Laura Liberatore

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in retrieval systems, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning, or otherwise without the prior written permission of the Publisher. Requests to the Publisher should be addressed to msf_email@msf.gov.sg.

Limit of Liability/Disclaimer of Warranty: While the Publisher and author have used their best efforts in preparing this book, they make no representations or warranties with respect to the accuracy and/or completeness of the contents of this book and specifically disclaim any implied warranties or fitness for a particular purpose. The Publisher and author shall not be liable for any loss of profit or any other personal or commercial damages, including but not limited to special, incidental, consequential, or other damages.

Printed in Singapore

ISBN: 978-981-07-5381-8 (paperback)
ISBN: 978-981-07-5382-5 (e-book)

National Library Board, Singapore Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Lim, Emily, 1971-

Elvis and the Feathers School of Music / Emily Lim ; illustrated by Laura Liberatore. – Singapore : Ministry of Social and Family Development, c2013.

p. cm.

ISBN : 978-981-07-5381-8 (pbk.)

1. Civil rights – Juvenile fiction. 2. Singing – Juvenile fiction. 3. Frogs – Juvenile fiction.
I. Liberatore, Laura. II. Singapore. Ministry of Social and Family Development. III. Title.

PZ7
428.6 -- dc23

OCN827774462

A music school for "birds only" is having a concert where its performers will be able to develop their potential further.

Elvis the frog dreams of singing at this important event. But can he ever be accepted?



Children/General

writeeditions.com

ISBN 978-981-07-5381-8



9 789810 753818