

"Why Can't I Fly?"

Third Place Winner!

By: Kallie Gatrell, Age 14, North Carolina, USA

Description: A penguin wonders why they are the only bird in the zoo not able to fly.

Genre: Comedic

Hey, Randy, can I talk to you about something? Wait, Randy, you actually might want to sit down for this. Okay, well, I feel like I'm a worthless bird. I mean out of all ten thousand bird species, why am I one of the 60 that can't fly? That's 0.6%. It's not fair. Why can't I just soar like the mighty eagle? Why can't I see this earth from a bird's eye view? Honestly, I would even take the amount of flight a chicken has. Which isn't a lot. I'm just an embarrassment to the zoo because all the other birds can fly, but I can't. Have you ever seen how all the little humans point and laugh at me? That's a real blow to my confidence. I even heard that Eric in the owl exhibit was making fun of me just because I can't fly while he's over there asleep all the time, getting waited on wing and foot. I'm done with all the ridicule I get just because I can't fly. I mean, compared to them, I have some pretty great skills. I mean, are they able to slide on their stomachs? No. Can they swim underwater to catch fish? No. So why do they always say, "Hey, Chilly, how's the weather down there?" If they came down and just waddled in my flippers for a day, they might realize how hard it is to be me. I mean, at least I don't have to worry about getting a sunburn... right? You know what, I'm done with the jokes, and I won't take them anymore. I'm proud of who I am, even if I'm not the same as everyone else. I'm going to show everyone that I'm just as capable as they are, even if I can't fly.