Peacock’s Tail
by Patrick Doherty
illustrated by Stephan Daigle
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Long ago, Crow and Peacock were very good friends. They looked alike, too. Both birds had plain white feathers.

One day, the friends went for a walk to look at the flowers. They liked all the pretty colors.
"Wouldn’t it be nice to have colored feathers?” asked Crow.

“I know a way to change our feathers!” Peacock said. “We can paint them.”

“Okay,” said Crow. “I’ll paint yours. Then you can paint mine.”
Peacock agreed. So Crow poured some paint out of a can and dipped his brush in it. Crow painted Peacock’s feathers blue, green, and black.

"Paint eyes on my tail feathers so I can see myself," Peacock said.
So Crow painted eyes on Peacock’s tail feathers. Peacock had never seen such a fine display of feathers! He started to strut around, showing off his tail.

“I am the most beautiful bird in the world!” Peacock said.
“Now it’s my turn,” said Crow. But Peacock didn’t want to paint Crow. He wanted to look at his own beautiful tail.

So Peacock asked Crow, “Do you like brown or black?” “I like black,” Crow said.
So Peacock picked up a can of black paint and poured it on Crow’s head! Crow could not get the black paint off his feathers. Peacock left Crow standing alone, dripping with paint. Then Peacock took a trip around the world to show off his feathers.
Crow stayed at home in the forest. His shiny black feathers were beautiful, but he still felt sad. Crow had lost his best friend.

Peacock showed off his feathers all over the world, but he was lonely, too. One day he went back to the forest.
Peacock found Crow in the forest. “I traveled around the world to show off my beautiful tail,” Peacock said. “I have been too proud. I’m sorry.”

“I missed you!” said Crow.
"I missed you, too!" cried Peacock. "When I was away, I learned an important lesson. Now I know that pride does not make you happy!"

Since that day, Crow and Peacock have been best friends.
Responding

**TARGET SKILL** Sequence of Events


![Blank chart placeholders]

**Write About It**

**Text to Text** Think of a different story that tells why an animal looks the way it looks. Write two sentences about the animal and why it looks that way.
been  never  own
brown  off  very
know  out

WORDS TO KNOW

LEARN MORE WORDS

display  strut

TARGET SKILL  Sequence of Events
Tell the order in which things happen.

TARGET STRATEGY  Question
Ask questions about what you are reading.

GENRE  A folktale is a story that is often told by people of a country.