



# Sam and his WILD Adventures

a 21st Century  
Folk Tale<sup>®</sup>

Created by : Mr. Bice's 3rd Grade Class of 2009, East Orient School  
In collaboration with Earth Arts<sup>NW</sup> [www.earthandspirit.org](http://www.earthandspirit.org)

Artists: It's time to create Cover Art!

Artist's Name (That's YOU!)

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## CHAPTER ONE: Survival is Not Easy

It was graduation day at C.F.A.S.  
(that's short for **C**ollege **F**or **A**nimal **S**urvival).  
You could tell by the decorations.

The Beaver Lodge was shining with \_\_\_\_\_ .

\_\_\_\_\_ floated on the pond.

The branches of the Meeting Tree were decked with \_\_\_\_\_ .

And \_\_\_\_\_ twinkled from  
every bush, log, stump and den in the forest.

"WHOOPEE! HOORAY! WE DID IT!"

The animals hooted and hollered.  
All except one young Owl named Sam.  
Sam had not yet learned to survive.

Frog rubbed it in every chance he got.

"Two four six eight! Sammy didn't grad-u-ate!"

And if that wasn't bad enough...

"Hey, Featherbrain! That log can fly higher than you!"

Frog's words were mean, but they held a grain of truth.

Sam knew HOW to fly. He just couldn't do it yet.

His sister Suzie was a sweetheart. She understood why.

And Suzie was the only one who knew about

Sam's special dream. More than anything

he wanted to become a Medicine Bird.

But without a survival diploma, that seemed like an **impossible** dream.

Sam HAD to learn how to fly and hunt.  
His teachers made that clear.  
Butterfly, Teacher of Flying and Change told him

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Fox, Teacher of Stealth and Timing told him

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Cat, Teacher of Tracking and Hunting told him

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Only Wise Wolf, Teacher of Medicine, said,  
“Don’t take it too much to heart, Sam.  
I know you will find your way.”

Sam tried to remember those kind words.  
But it was Frog’s mean cracks that stuck with him.  
“You’re a double loser, dork bird. You’re never gonna fly, so give up!”

“Don’t listen to Frog,” Suzie urged Sam.  
“I wish that kid who hangs around the forest  
would adopt Frog for a pet,” she grumbled.  
“Or even better -- get his mom to cook frog legs for dinner.”

But all the jokes and all the kind words in the world  
could not change the one big thing: SAM WAS AFRAID TO FLY.  
And if he couldn’t fly, he couldn’t survive.

## **CHAPTER TWO: READY OR NOT**

“You CAN!” Suzie hooted. “I know it.”  
“I CAN’T,” Sam replied. “I know it.”  
“Sam the Scardy Cat!” Frog croaked at the top of his lungs.

“Everyone knows it too,” Sam sighed.  
“When you learn to fly, we can play air games!” Suzie coaxed.  
“And you can hunt whatever you want – even Frog!”  
“Give it up, Suzie. It will never happen.”

“Right. It will never happen if you don’t try!  
So call me when you are ready.”

Suzie stomped home across the log bridge.  
She felt \_\_\_\_\_.

Frog boogied past Sam’s tree again. “Yo, Little Pipsqueak!  
Can’t fly! Won’t try! Can’t fly! Won’t try!”  
“Who cares?” Sam shouted. Frog did not answer.

Then Sam answered himself. “I CARE,” he declared.  
He grabbed the Owl Phone and called Suzie.  
“OK,” he said. “I’m ready to try.”  
“WAHOO!” Suzie cheered. “I’m on my way.”

### **WRITERS: What Changed Sam’s Mind?**

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“Don’t think,” Suzie said.  
“Just pretend we’re playing *Simon Says*.”

Number One: Get up on the edge of the nest.  
See? That wasn't so hard.

Two: Squat and tuck! Good job! Three: Check to the left. Yeah!  
Four: Check to the right. Go Sammy! Five: Spread your wings!  
Six: Flap hard. Seven: TAKE OFF! WHEEEEEEEEEEE!"

Sam did great right up to number seven.  
But just as Suzie caught the breeze...  
...just as Sam was about to jump...BOINGGGG!  
Frog bounced so high they were eyeball to eyeball!

"AWK!" Sam screeched, falling back into his nest.  
Frog laughed. "I can hop higher than you can fly --  
WHICH YOU CAN'T! HA ha HA ha HA HA!"  
Suzie circled back. She was angry.

"Stop messing with my brother!" she cried.  
"He's not stupid. He's just scared. Wanna know why?  
Our little sister Marigold fell out of the nest  
and she DIED, that's why! Go away you big bully!"

"I was so close, *so close!*" Sam cried.  
"But I don't have the guts to leave my nest.  
I don't even have the guts to stand up to Frog.  
How will I EVER become a Medicine Bird?"

### **CHAPTER THREE: THE SECRET**

Suzie was worried about Sam.  
She did not know that Sam was trying to change.

Under cover of night he practiced quietly,  
so no one would see him – especially Frog.  
Ever since he had ALMOST flown, a feeling was growing inside him.

*Here is how the change began...*

One night, Sam snagged a big Fly almost by accident.  
Buzzzzz Buzzzzz! Before he knew it, Sam flapped and flew!  
Well, it was more like a jump with wings.  
But it was a start.

In his dreams he could do so much more! Snoozing, Sam dreamed  
of watching the sunset from the top of the highest tree.  
He dreamed of a warm breeze on his feathers.  
And food! All the food he could eat.

**ARTISTS: Draw Sam's Dream**



**PLOP!** Sam got so excited dreaming  
he fell onto a lower branch of his tree.  
“Wow!” Sam thought. “This puts me closer to some food!”

He saw a Shrew, slinking through the bushes.  
Sam licked his lips, and rubbed his tummy.  
A Mouse scurried through the grass. Sam drooled with hunger.

He scrambled down to the lowest branches of the tree.  
“Food! I need food!” he groaned.  
His yellow eyes, so sharp at night, spotted a Mole.  
But he did not see Fox watching him from behind a bush.

Sam hopped after that Mole as fast as he could.  
But the Mole was faster. "Noooo!" Sam cried.  
Silently, suddenly Fox trapped the Mole.  
"Like this," he grinned.

Fox made a game out of teaching Sam  
to hunt his prey. He tossed the Mole onto a branch.  
Sam flapped his wings and got nowhere.  
Then he ran and flapped... and got nowhere.

But the third time, Sam took off!  
He actually flew up and landed on the branch!  
That Mole tasted delicious! But Sam was still hungry.  
He spotted a Mouse under a leaf.

"Yes!" Sam cheered himself on:  
"I'm so hungry I can do it! I'm so hungry I can do it!  
I'm so hungry I can do it!"

WHOOSH! Sam dove for his dinner.  
He tracked that Mouse through the forest.  
His chant was loud in his head.  
"I'm so hungry I can do it!"

The Mouse raced for her hole, but Sam was determined.  
He swooped down and grabbed her in his beak.  
"I'm so hungry I can do it!" Sam cheered.

OOPS! The Mouse dropped out of his open mouth.  
Faster than fast, Sam dove! He caught his prey in his talons.  
"I CAN DO IT! I **DID** DO IT!"

"Suzie! Suzie, wake up!" he shouted,  
as he flew proudly to his sister's tree.

"I have a surprise for you!"

"This better be good," Suzie yawned.

"You have three guesses," Sam said.

"Is it a \_\_\_\_\_?" asked Suzie.

"Is it a \_\_\_\_\_?"

"Is it a \_\_\_\_\_?"

Sam could not hold it in any longer.

"WATCH!" he cried, as he took flight.

Sam sailed around the tree, dropped the Mouse in Suzie's nest,  
and landed triumphantly on the branch.

Suzie was speechless.

"I can do it!" Sam grinned. "Now let's eat! I'm starving."

They could not decide if it was a late dinner  
or an early breakfast.

But they did agree on one thing - no meal had  
EVER tasted better.

## **CHAPTER FOUR: When the Time is Right**

Suzie wanted to tell everyone right that second,  
but Sam was still shy.

"I get shaky when I think about showing the others.  
Give me two weeks to practice."

It was a l-o-o-o-o-ong two weeks for Suzie.  
But really, things were pretty normal.  
Sam practiced every night. And Frog teased him every day.  
"Fall off any branches lately, Squirt?"

*Then one night, when the moon was full...*

Mountain Lion stormed through the forest.  
She was angry because Wolf would not  
let her become a Medicine apprentice.  
And she was out for blood. Grr! Grrrrrow! **GROWL!**

The noise woke CJ, a kid who often snuck out  
at night to explore the forest. His parents would have had  
a cow if they had know, but CJ did it anyway.

CJ wiggled out his window  
and climbed down the emergency rope ladder.  
He stuck out his tongue at his parent's window (just for fun),  
slipped into the forest, and headed for the pond.

**GRRRRRRRR! GRRRRROWWWL!**  
Mountain Lion would not be satisfied until she found prey.  
And Wolf could smell the human invader too.  
He sounded the Forest Alarm.

**"AHHHOOOOO! PREDATORS ON THE PROWL!  
ALL ANIMALS TO THE MEETING TREE."**  
The forest came alive as critters large and small ran for shelter.

"Hurry, Sam!" Suzie cried. "This is a test of survival!"

"Right behind you," Sam answered. Then he heard  
a fierce, low GRRRRRRRRRRR, and froze.

There was Frog, bouncing away from the boy.

"Can't catch me! I'm the bouncing champion of the universe!"

Frog bragged, as CJ grabbed, and grabbed again.

Frog was clueless, but for once *he* was not the problem.

Right behind CJ stalked Mountain Lion – quiet, deadly and ready to pounce.

Sam did not think twice. WHOOSH!

He dove down, snatched CJ by the scruff of his neck  
and zoomed him to the safety of Fox's den.

Then he flew high above the tree-tops.

AND HE SAW CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER!

**GRRRRROWL!** Mountain Lion was furious!

Uh oh! Frog was not laughing now. His eyes bulged in terror  
as Mountain Lion stalked toward his shivering green body.

BOING! BOING! Frog jumped for his life.

This way and that, he hopped through the forest  
with Mountain Lion close behind.

Faster and faster Frog went, his little heart pounding with fear.

"NOOOOOO!" cried Sam from above. For he could see  
what Frog could not: A cliff directly in his path!

"EEEEEEKKKKKK!" "GRRRRRRRRR-AHHHHHHH!"

Frog and Mountain Lion both went hurtling over the edge.

**THUNK!** Mountain Lion landed in a sticker bush  
which ended her hunting for the night!  
But little Frog was falling, FALLING....  
screaming and paddling the air all the way down.

"I want my Mommy! I'm too young to die!"  
Frog saw a blur of brown under him and closed his eyes.  
"THIS IS IT! GOODBYE CRUEL WORLD!" he sobbed,  
waiting for the crash. But there was no crash.

"I'm...I'm...ALIVE!" Frog gasped. He opened his eyes  
and realized he was riding on Sam's back.  
"I've been so mean, you're being so nice..."

Frog could not stop babbling. "What can I say...?"  
"For once, don't say anything," Sam replied.  
"Just hang on tight!"  
And with that, he flew toward the Meeting Tree.

## **CHAPTER FIVE: Flying in a New Direction**

The animals who had gathered at the Meeting Tree  
could not believe their eyes.  
Who was that gliding toward them?

Butterfly was struck silent. Fox was amazed:  
"It's a bird...it's a plane...wait, it's SAM!"  
Cat scrambled up in the tree to get a better look...  
"Impossible! He's flying!" she gasped. "With Frog on his back!"

Suzie just about burst with pride as she watched  
Sam "the Scardy Cat" sail down for a perfect two point landing.

Frog instantly started blithering about his brush with death.

But for the first time ever, Frog did NOT  
make *himself* the center of the story.  
"Same saved my life!" he cried. "I don't get it.  
The way I treated him, I did not deserve it.  
But he saved me anyway."

"And that," said Wolf, "is the sign of a true Medicine Bird.  
One who gives freely and courageously to all.  
One who never gives up, no matter  
how hard the task or how grave the danger.

Sam, I ask you to be my new Medicine apprentice.  
Will you join me on this path?"  
Sam nodded. His heart was too full to speak.

## EPILOGUE

One week later the animals gathered again.  
This time they came to the Meeting Tree  
in celebration, not in fear.

*Sam received his Survival Diploma.*

All his teachers and friends praised him.

Fox said \_\_\_\_\_.

Butterfly said \_\_\_\_\_.

Cat said \_\_\_\_\_.

Frog said \_\_\_\_\_.

Suzie said \_\_\_\_\_.

*Then came the official Medicine Ceremony*

**WRITERS: Describe Sam's Ceremony**

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It was wonderful, beyond Sam's wildest dreams.  
"But you must have had a *favorite part*," Suzie said later.  
Two favorite parts, actually:

*The song Wolf taught everyone that began,  
"Come on down, Sam, you're the new Medicine Man."*

AND

*The moment when Wolf gave Sam his new name -*

*SAM, THE BRAVE & HELPFUL SAVER.*

**The New Medicine Man**

Words by Mr. Bice's 3rd grade class of 2009

5  
Come on down here Sam, you're the new me-di-cine man OH

10  
come on down here Sam, you're the new me-di-cine man Sam you are brave

15  
Sam you are a hel - per Sam you are a sa - ver Sam you aare a He - ro

20  
OH, come on down here Sam, you're the new me-di-cine man come on down  
here Sam, you're the new me-di - cine man HOOT! HOOT HOOT HOOT HOOT

The musical score is written on five staves of music. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second staff begins with a measure rest. The third staff begins with a measure rest. The fourth staff begins with a measure rest. The fifth staff ends with a double bar line.

Earth Arts NW, 2009 c.

**THE END**