

Lesson 6

READ THIS STORY #2, Basic

The Turkey Buzzard

The old turkey buzzard sat hunched on a branch of the tree. His bright red head was bald. His beak was curved. He sat very still and just blinked his eyes while the hot desert sun slowly warmed his body.

Then he stretched his wings, one at a time, and let the hot winds from the desert floor lift him into the clear blue sky. He drifted high above the vermilion cliffs.

A hungry buzzard is absolutely silent. In fact, he doesn't have a voice box. He glides in broad circles while searching for his lunch. He doesn't prey on anything that's living. He survives solely on carrion. He can spot it even when he is one mile above the decaying carcass of the animal.

Turkey buzzards are not antisocial. They willingly share their dinner with other buzzards. These ugly birds perform an essential service. They rid the desert of material that people don't want to see or smell.