

# Poem - Tagirigirim



School Journal Senior 1, 1999 - V1.1

English

*There is a belief in the Rabaraba District of the Milne Bay Province that when a willy wagtail continues to sing around your house it is a warning. There will be sickness, death or a visitor coming. Willy wagtail in the Wedau language is Tagirigirim.*



A little bird  
Sang to me this morning  
Tagirigirim Tagirigirim Kwaitoto!  
Tagirigirim Tagirigirim Kwaitoto!  
A visitor will come

A little bird  
Sang to me at midday  
Tagirigirim Tagirigirim Kwaitoto!  
Tagirigirim Tagirigirim Kwaitoto!  
My visitor is on his way

Psiit! Psiit! Kwaitoto  
Tagirigirim Tagirigirim Kwaitoto!  
Your visitor is here

# Check Your Understanding

1) Who was singing?

a) A little boy

b) A man

c) A little girl

d) A little bird

## Check Your Understanding

2) What was the person doing whilst the bird was singing?

a) Sleeping

b) Cooking

c) Gardening

d) Eating

# Check Your Understanding

3) Why is the poem called Tagirigirim?

## Check Your Understanding

4) Where do you think the author of this poem is from?

## Check Your Understanding

5) What do the people from Rabaraba believe might happen if a Willy Wagtail constantly sings around their house?

## Check Your Understanding

6) Has your family got any beliefs about animals? Discuss them with another person.

## Check Your Understanding

7) How might the person feel if they have heard the bird singing all morning?

# Check Your Understanding

- 8) Write a poem about an animal that lives around you.

## Secretary's Message:

The Papua New Guinea School Journal (Senior) is a collection of writing suitable for children in Grades 6-8. The Journal is intended as supplementary reading and should be available for children to read in the classroom.

Teachers are encouraged to read a story from the Journal to their class every day. In this way their children will become familiar with the stories and will want to read them for themselves.

The Journal was written and illustrated by Papua New Guinean writers and illustrators and was produced with the assistance of the New Zealand/Papua New Guinea School Journals Project. The Department of Education wishes to acknowledge the support of the New Zealand Government in making these journals available for the children of this country.

PETER M. BAKI

Secretary for Education

# Poem - Tagirigirim

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English



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