



*"In sun and rain
and ice and snow,
feather to feather,
we're always together."*

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Weaver & Wiener • Butterley

The Gift of Gerbert's Feathers

The Gift of Gerbert's Feathers



By Meaghann Weaver & Lori Wiener
Illustrated by Mikki Butterley

Dear Reader,

This book is written for children like you, children who might have an illness that they worry about. It is also written for children who may be worried about someone they love who is living with a serious illness. It is sometimes hard to tell people about our worries. It can feel easier to keep our worries inside. But keeping worries inside can cause problems too—like loneliness, anger, sadness, and even more fear.

Find a quiet time and a cozy place to cuddle up with someone you are comfortable with to read. You may choose to only read one or two pages a day. You may want to read the book over and over again. You might like the pictures most of all! What is most important is that you know that it is ok to ask questions, to share concerns or fears, and to talk about thoughts that you may not have spoken about with anyone else before. We hope that Gerbert brings you a new way of thinking about illness, death, and family love. Remember, there are people who care about you and will help you along the way.

Meaghann Weaver & Lori Wiener

An extensive Note to Parents & Caregivers, as well as printable feather coloring sheets, is available online at www.apa.org/pubs/magination/441B266

From the moment his eggshell cracked,
and his bill first peeked out,
everyone knew Gerbert was a special goose.



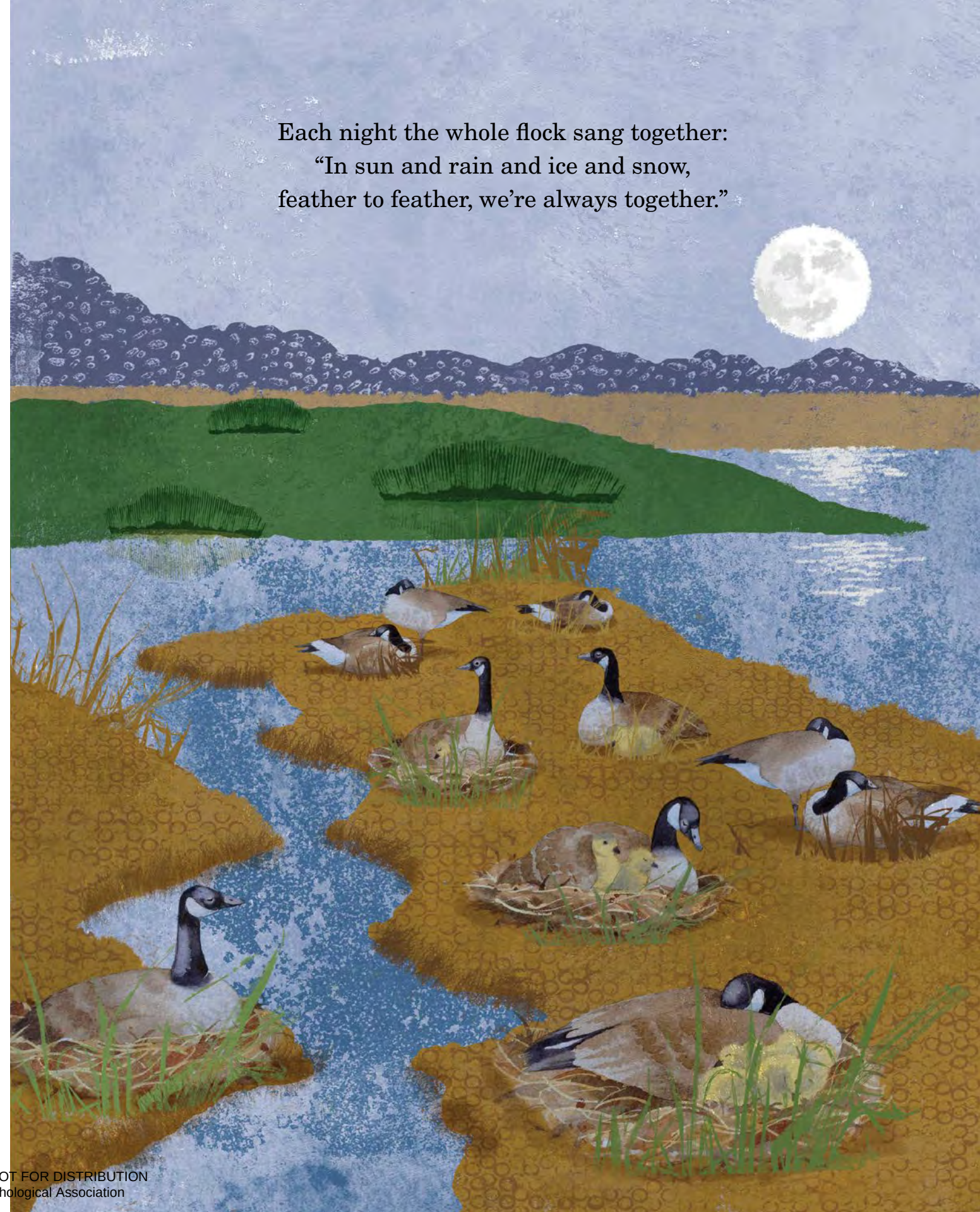


Gerbert tried to fly
from the moment he hatched.
“Adventurous,” his mom declared.
“Courageous,” his dad agreed.
“Adorable,” they both honked.



Gerbert felt safe and warm in his nest.
It was filled with family and love.

Each night the whole flock sang together:
“In sun and rain and ice and snow,
feather to feather, we’re always together.”





Gerbert was a joyful gosling.
Gerbert and his friends splashed in
shallow water and swam in the
lake. They played chase in open
grasslands, flapping their wings wide
to tickle each other. They waddled
in a line after Gerbert, playing follow
the leader in the grain field.



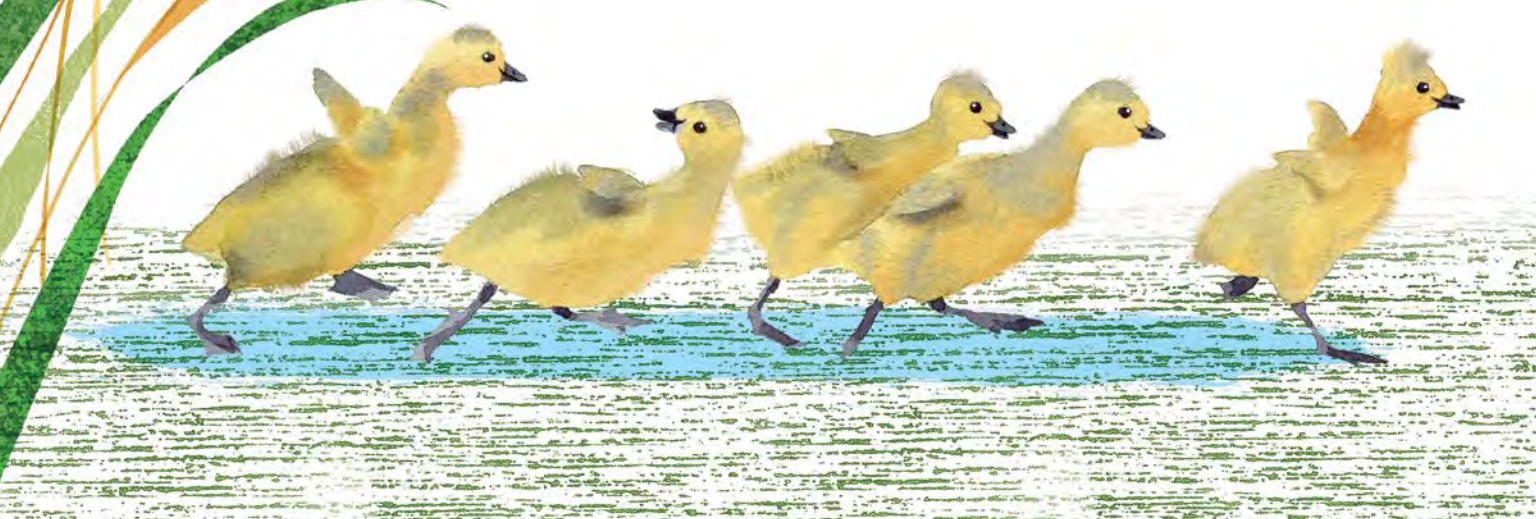
Gerbert grazed on grass.
Gerbert snacked on sedges.
Gerbert munched on
skunk cabbage leaves.



Gerbert was
especially fond
of blueberries.



He was the best
at removing kernels
from corn cobs.



Yet, no matter how much Gerbert ate, he barely gained weight. As his siblings grew, Gerbert kept his shorter neck and smaller bill.



But Gerbert felt strong. Gerbert felt vibrant.



Every year, Gerbert's family migrated south with thousands of other geese. The huge V-shaped flocks filled the sky.

Gerbert's wings were shorter, so he had to flap faster than other geese. But he always kept up in the Great Migration.