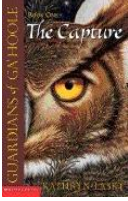


# Passages

## Reading Level 4



**Title:** Guardians of Ga'Hoole

**Author:** Kathryn N. Lasky

### Sample From The Book

"Noctus, can you spare a bit more down, darling? I think our third little one is about to arrive. That egg is beginning to crack."

"Not again!" sighed Kludd.

"What do you mean, Kludd, not again? Don't you want another little brother?" his father said. There was an edge to his voice.

"Or sister?" His mother sighed the low soft whistle Barn Owls sometimes used.

"I'd like a sister," Soren peeped up.

"You just hatched out two weeks ago." Kludd turned to Soren, his younger brother. "What do you know about sisters?"

Maybe, Soren thought to himself, they would be better than brothers. Kludd seemed to have resented him since the moment he had first hatched.

"You really wouldn't want them arriving just when you're about to begin branching," Kludd said dully. Branching was the first step, literally toward flight. The young owlets would begin by hopping from branch to branch and flapping their wings.

"Now, now, Kludd!" his father admonished. "Don't be impatient. There'll be time for branching. Remember, you won't have your flight feathers for at least another month or more."

Soren was just about to ask what a month was when he heard a crack. The owl family all seemed to freeze. To any other forest creature the sound would have been imperceptible. But Barn Owls were blessed with extraordinary hearing.



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