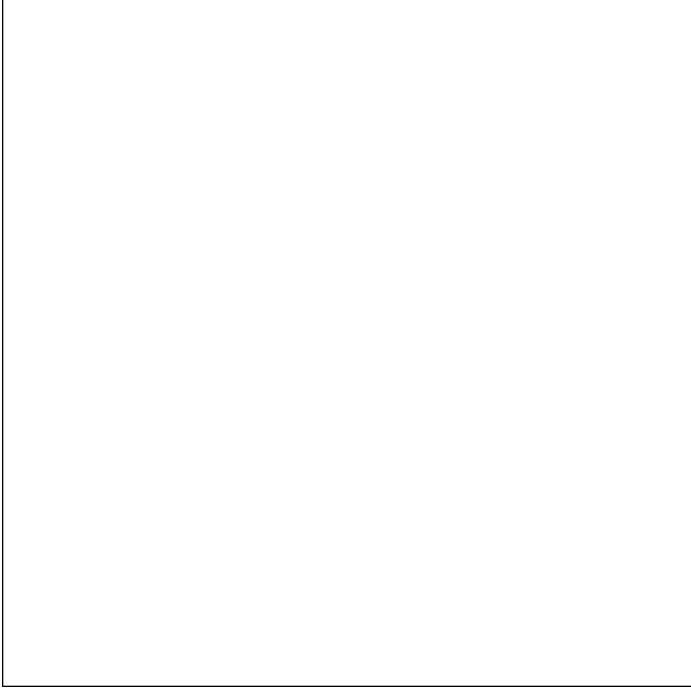


**Pouli ak Eg**  
**Hen and Eagle**



✎ Ann Nduku  
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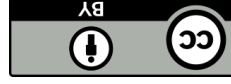
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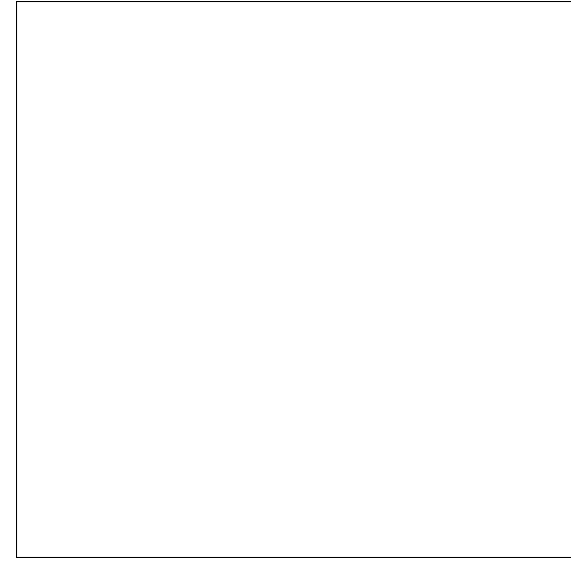




Nan tan lontan, yon poul ak yon èg te zanmi. Yo te viv anpè ak tout lòt zwazo yo. Men, yo pa te kapab vole.

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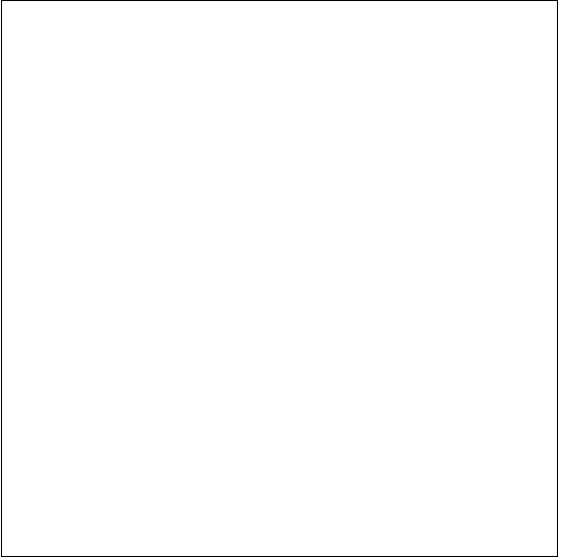
Once upon a time, Hen and Eagle were friends. They lived in peace with all the other birds. None of them could fly.



Lè poul lan wè lombraj zèl Eg la ap tonbe li kouri pran timoun li yo "soti sou teren vid sa a" Timoun yo reponn: "Nou konnen! N'ap kouri."

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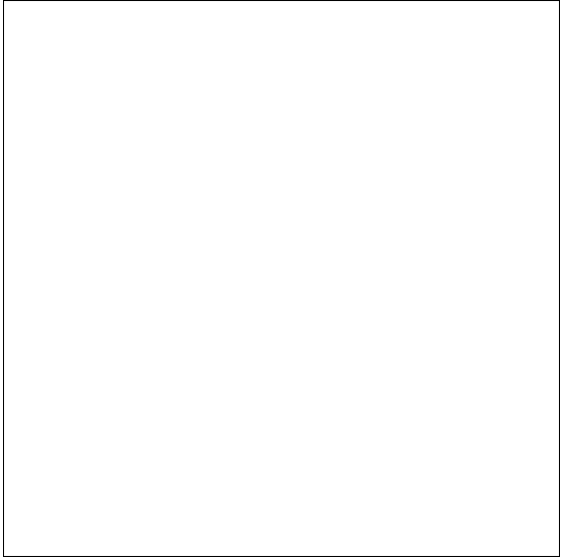
As the shadow of Eagle's wing falls on the ground, Hen warns her chicks. "Get out of the bare and dry land." And they respond: "We are not fools. We will run."



Yon jou, peyi a te nan granbou. Eg lan te blije mache byen lwen pou'jwenn manje. Lè li tounen li te bouke anpil". Li di tèt li: « Fòke mwen jwenn yon lòt jan pou'm vwayaje!":

...

One day, there was famine in the land. Eagle had to walk very far to find food. She came back very tired. "There must be an easier way to travel!" said Eagle.



Lè Eg la vini nan lòt jou ki vini, li jwenn Pou la ap grate sab la men zegwi pate la. Se konsa ke Eg lan vole byen ba pou li pran yonn nan ti pou yo. Li pati avèk ti pou lan. Depi jou sa a, chak fwa Eg parèt li wè pou lan af foye sab lan pou' chache zegwi a.

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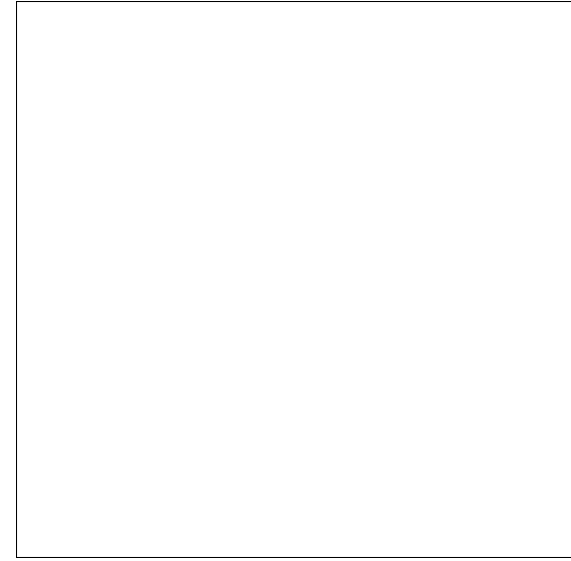
When Eagle came the next day, she found Hen scratching in the sand, but no needle. So Eagle flew down very fast and caught one of the chicks. She carried it away. Forever after that, whenever Eagle appears, she finds Hen scratching in the sand for the needle.



Après yon bon nwit dòmi, poul la leve ak yon bèl lide. Li rasanble tout plim zanmi zwazo yo ki te tonbe atè : “Annou koud tout ansanm sou nou... petèt na kapab vwayaje pi fasil.”

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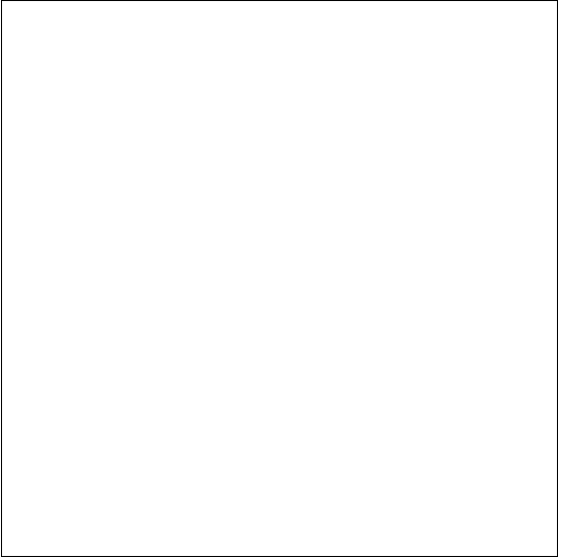
After a good night’s sleep, Hen had a brilliant idea. She began collecting the fallen feathers from all their bird friends. “Let’s sew them together on top of our own feathers,” she said. “Perhaps that will make it easier to travel.”



“Tanpri ban mwen yon lòt jou ankò” poul la mande. “Après sa a, wap kapab ranje zèl ou pou’w ale chache manje ankò.” “Map ba ou yon grenn jou sèlman” Eg la reponn. “Si ou pa ka jwenn zegwi a ou pral blije ban mwen yonn nan ti poul ou yo kòm pèman.”

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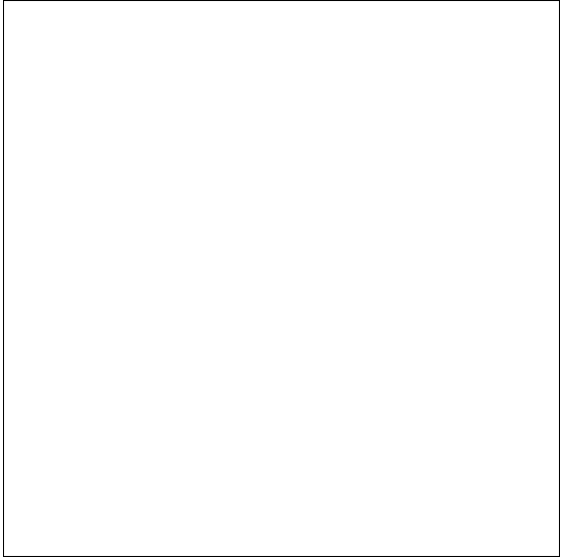
“Just give me a day,” Hen begged Eagle. “Then you can fix your wing and fly away to get food again.” “Just one more day,” said Eagle. “If you can’t find the needle, you’ll have to give me one of your chicks as payment.”



Eg lan te sèl ki te gen zegwi, se konsa li kòmanse koud an premye. Li fè de bèl zèl pou tèt li enpi li vole byen wo sou pouli la. Pouli la prete zegwi a men li vin fatigje koud. Li depoze zegwi a nan yon bol enpi lale nan kizin nan pou li fè manje pou pitit li yo.

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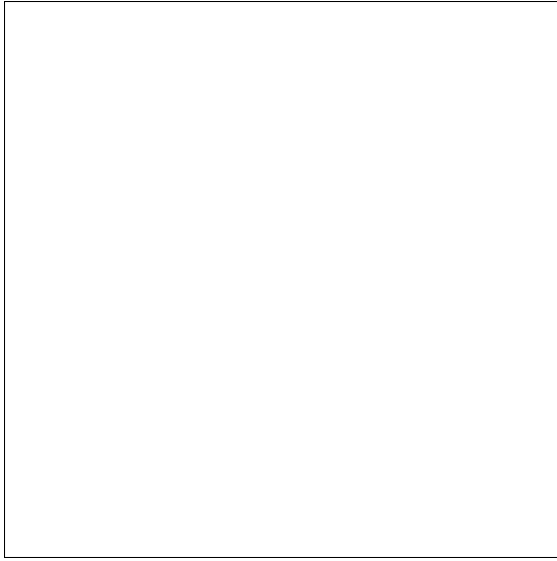
Eagle was the only one in the village with a needle, so she started sewing first. She made herself a pair of beautiful wings and flew high above Hen. Hen borrowed the needle but she soon got tired of sewing. She left the needle on the cupboard and went into the kitchen to prepare food for her children.



Pita nan apremidi, Eg la tounen. Li mande kote zegwi la pou li ranje kek plim ki te dekolè nan vwayaj li. Pouli la gade nan bol la, li gade nan kizin nan, li gade nan lakou a men li pa janm jwenn zegwi a.

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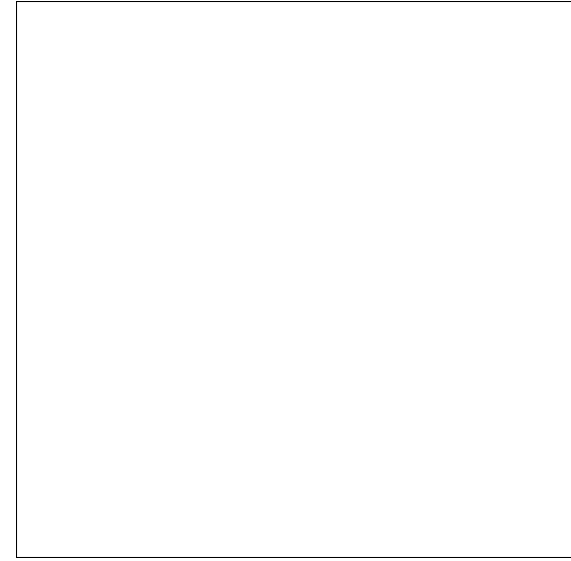
Later that afternoon, Eagle returned. She asked for the needle to fix some feathers that had loosened on her journey. Hen looked on the cupboard. She looked in the kitchen. She looked in the yard. But the needle was nowhere to be found.



Lòt zwazo yo te wè Eg tap vole byen wo. Yo mande poul la si yo te ka prete zegwi a tou pou yo fè zèl pou tèt yo. Se konsa tout zwazo kòmanse vole nan syèl la.

...

But the other birds had seen Eagle flying away. They asked Hen to lend them the needle to make wings for themselves too. Soon there were birds flying all over the sky.



Lè dènye zwazo a remèt zegwi la, Poul lan pate la. Timoun yo pran zegwi a, yo kòmanse jwe ak li. Lè yo bouke yo kite'l sou sab la.

...

When the last bird returned the borrowed needle, Hen was not there. So her children took the needle and started playing with it. When they got tired of the game, they left the needle in the sand.