



Name: _____

Date: _____

Let it Go!

“I’ve found a swallow’s nest!” John Moore said.

John’s friends ran to the tree where he was standing. Once more his quick eyes had seen something that they had missed. The boys looked at the baby birds in the nest.

“Their mother must be out looking for food,” John said.

Then he said, “I’d like a baby swallow for a pet. I can take good care of it.”

John climbed up the tree. He took out a young bird and put it inside his coat. Then, the boys went home. John did try to take care of his new pet. He found food for it. He put its cage near the window so that it could see the sun.

The young bird was not happy. Most of the time, it just sat in its cage. Every morning it flew to the top of the cage. That was as close as it could get to the sun. It sat there and sang the beautiful swallow song.

Something inside of John hurt when the swallow sang. A voice in his mind said, “Let it go! Let it go!” At last John had to listen. He got up early one day. The bright sun rays filled the sky outside. John took the swallow’s cage and walked to the field where he had found the nest. Then, he opened the door and let the swallow out.

It seemed to float for a minute. Then, it flew up high in the air. From far away John could hear the beautiful swallow song. It had never sounded so sweet.

John knew that he could never again cage an animal. Instead, he wanted to save animals and their homes. He wanted to keep them free.

That’s what John Moore did for the rest of his life. He left his home in the United States to travel around the world. He wrote about what he saw happening to the animals. Moore’s writings made people stop and think of the land. His love of it moved others. The world is more beautiful today because of him.