

from “Aaron's Gift”
by Myron Levoy
(Implied Character Motivation)

One of the boys brought Carl some cord and Carl, without a word, wound it twice around the pigeon, so that its wings were tight against its body.

“What . . . what are you *doing!*” shouted Aaron. “You're hurting his wing!”

“Don't worry about his wing,” said Carl. “We're gonna throw him into the fire. And when we do, we're gonna swear an oath of loyalty to—”

“No! *No!*” shouted Aaron, moving toward Carl.

“Grab him!” called Carl. “Don't let him get the pigeon!”

But Aaron had leaped right across the fire at Carl, taking him completely by surprise. He threw Carl back against the shack and hit out at his face with both fists. Carl slid down to the ground, and the pigeon rolled out of his hands. Aaron scooped up the pigeon and ran, pretending he was on roller skates so that he would go faster and faster. . . .