

Eddy Eagle is no ordinary bird. Eddy's story is unique. Eddy comes from a long line of eagles that never amounted to much. Eddy's grandfather, Edwin, was a poor eagle who flew to Siskiyou County in the early 1900's from Canada. While building his first nest in the trees near Mount Shasta, Edwin meant Eddy's grandmother, Edwina. Edwin and Edwina spent their lives traveling, molting, and raising their children. Together, Edwin and Edwina had three children: Edward, Edison, and Edna.

First-born Edward grew up to be a vicious eagle that preyed on innocent creatures, never went to school, and quickly became the outcast in the family. Second-born Edison was an average eagle who worked as a crossing guard in the sky, making sure all the different species of birds never collided with one another. The youngest child, Edna, was a teacher for a few years before meeting Arnold, and having their only baby eagle who they named Eddy Eagle. Arnold left Edna and Eddy when Eddy was a young eagle, so Eddy never knew anything of his father. As a teacher, Edna taught young baby eagles their place in the world as predators, as creatures that lose their feathers every year, and as birds that live average lives. She told Eddy stories about their family, and how their family followed the way of the "good and average eagle." When Eddy became a teenager, however, he began to question everything his mother had taught him, as any teenager might do.

One day, while hunting for lunch, Eddy said to his mother, "Momma, why has nobody in our family ever done anything outstanding? Even more, why has nobody in our entire tribe ever done anything outstanding? Why is every eagle in Siskiyou County alright with being an average eagle?"

His mother looked at him with shock, which quickly turned into a soft, motherly smile. She replied, "I always wondered. I wondered how long it would take for your father's side of the gene pool to show up. You know what, son? Go. Go explore the world. I want you to be more than the average eagle. Just remember one thing – remember where you came from, and that your momma loves you."

Eddy said, "Thank you momma. I promise I won't disappoint you." Eddy quickly flew away from the tree branch, across Interstate 5, and right into a window of the library at College of the Siskiyous! He was knocked to the ground, and when he got up, he ruffled his feathers and was looking straight into the eyes of a human! Although he was taught to fear humans, he stood tall and pushed his chest out, and gave his best eagle grin to the human. He didn't understand everything the human said, he did hear the words "awesome," "represent," and "brave." When Eddy heard these words, his eagle heart beat proud and strong. He knew what these words meant. He knew he was going to be someone, someone important, and someone people needed. Little did he know, he would go on to become the mascot for the college – all because he wanted to be better than average, and because he flew into a window!

By: Katie Gale, Political Science Instructor