

S.1 & S.2  
17 October 2008  
Day F Moral Reading

Please put the Moral Reading Materials in your English folder after reading.

The Bat, the Birds, and the Beasts

A great fight was about to come off between the birds and the beasts. When the two sides were together, the bat was thinking which to join.

The birds that passed his perch said, "Come with us". But he said: "I am a beast."

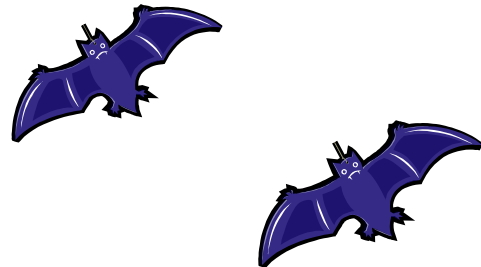
Later on, some beasts who were passing below him looked up and said: "Come with us". But he said, "I am a bird."

"Luckily at the last moment peace was made and no fighting took place. So the bat came to them and wished to join them. But they all turned against him and he had to fly away. He then went to the beasts, but soon he had to run away, or else they would have torn him to pieces. The bat found that:

“He that is neither one thing nor the other has no friends.”

Vocabulary

bat	n.	蝙蝠
beasts	n.	野獸
perch	n.	棲息處
below	prep.	在...底下
torn	v.	撕開



***For the following question, write your answer on p.39 of your 'Reading Journal' (悅讀手冊).***

Do you think friends have some common characteristics (共同特徵) or hobbies? Do you agree? Why or why not?

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The Bundle of Sticks

A dying old man give his sons some parting advice. He ordered his servants to bring in a faggot of sticks, and said to his eldest son, "Break it." The son was unable to break the faggot of sticks. The other sons also tried, but none of them was successful.

"Untie the faggots," said the father, "and each of you takes a stick." When they had done so, he called out to them, "Now, break," and each stick was easily broken. "You see my meaning," said their father.

Union gives strength.

團結就是力量！

Vocabulary

parting advice	n.	臨終囑咐
servant	n.	僕人；佣人
faggot	n.	捆；束
sticks	n.	柴枝
untie	v.	解開；解除；使自由
union	n.	團結



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The Cat-Maiden

The gods were once arguing if it was possible for a living being to change its nature. Jupiter said "Yes," but Venus said "No." So, to try the question, Jupiter turned a cat into a maiden, and gave her to a young man for a wife. The wedding was smooth and the young couple was very happy at their wedding feast. "See," said Jupiter to Venus, "how well she behaves. Who could tell that yesterday she was but a cat? Surely her nature is changed."

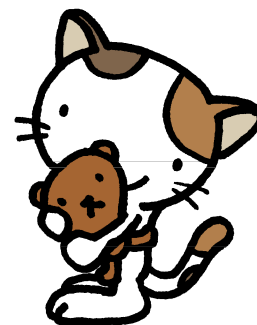
"Wait a minute," replied Venus, and let a mouse go into the room. No sooner did the bride see this than she jumped up from her seat and tried to catch the mouse. "Ah, you see," said Venus.

“Change of scene is not change of nature.”

江山易改，本性難移。

Vocabulary

living being	n.	生物
nature	n.	本質
disputing	v.	爭論；爭執
Jupiter	n.	羅馬神話中的宙斯神
Venus	n.	維納斯女神
maiden	n.	少女
wedding	n.	結婚典禮
wedding-feast	n.	結婚盛宴
behaves	v.	表現,行爲舉止



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The Cock and the Pearl

A cock was once walking proudly and down the farmyard among the hens when suddenly he saw something shining in the straw. "Ho! Ho!" said he, "That's for me," and soon took it out from the straw.

"It looks like a pearl. It may be very expensive," said the cock, "To men, the pearl is expensive. But for me, I would rather have some food than an expensive pearl."

Precious things are for those that can prize them.

珍貴的東西是給那些懂得珍惜他們的人

Vocabulary

cock	n.	公雞
walk proudly	v.	傲慢地，自負地走
farmyard	n.	農家庭院
straw	n.	稻草
pearl	n.	珍珠
rather	adv.	寧願

