



Name: _____

Why the Bat Wears the Night-A Pourquoi

Long ago, when the world was new, Bat did not shy away from the sun. He was a creature of both the earth and the sky, with his mousy fur and his feathery wings. By day, he would play with the birds, swooping and diving through the sunny meadows. By night, he would scurry with the mice, telling tales of the clouds.

The birds loved Bat. "You are the best of us!" they would chirp. "You are so clever and swift." They decided to make him an honorary bird and invited him to a grand festival to honor the Sun King.

The mice also loved Bat. "You are the best of us!" they would squeak. "You have seen the treetops we can only dream of." They, too, decided to have a grand feast to honor the comforting Moon Queen, and they invited Bat as their guest of honor.

There was only one problem: the birds' Sun Festival and the mice's Moon Feast were to be held on the very same day.

Bat was in a terrible dilemma. He did not want to hurt anyone's feelings. So, he hatched a plan. "I will go to the birds' festival first," he thought, "and once I have eaten and danced, I will fly quickly to the mice's feast."

The day of the festivals arrived. The sun was brilliant and warm. Bat flew down to the birds' gathering, which was a spectacle of color and song. There were robins in red vests, blue jays in shimmering cloaks, and canaries brighter than buttercups. Bat, in his simple brown fur, felt a little plain.

"Welcome, Brother Bat!" crowed the Rooster. "For our Sun King, we must all be as bright as his rays. Let us all show our finest colors!"

The birds began to preen and show off, but Bat had no bright colors to show. He felt embarrassed. He ate a few quick bugs and, without saying a proper goodbye, he slipped away, feeling he didn't quite belong.

He flew off to find the mice's Moon Feast. It was held in a cozy, mossy hollow under the roots of a great oak tree. The mice had laid out a wonderful spread of seeds and berries. But when Bat arrived, he was still thinking about the birds' rejection.

"Look!" cried a little mouse, pointing at Bat's wings. "He has the wings of a bird! He must be a bird spy!"

The other mice gasped and gathered together. "You were with the birds all day!" squeaked another. "You are not a true mouse. You cannot be trusted!"

Bat's heart sank. The mice, his dear friends, were shooing him away.

Feeling utterly alone and rejected by both his day-friends and his night-friends, Bat flew up into the twilight sky. He didn't belong with the birds of the day, and he had been cast out by the mice of the night.





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Seeing his sadness, the wise Moon Queen took pity on him. She cast her soft, silver light upon his dark fur. "Dear Bat," she whispered, "you are not just a bird or just a mouse. You are something unique and wonderful. The day is too harsh for you, but the night can be your cloak. In the darkness, no one will judge your fur or your wings. You will be my secret acrobat, a master of the midnight sky."

And so, Bat found his true home. From that night on, he only flies when the sun is gone. He wears the night as his blanket, and under the gentle gaze of the Moon Queen, he dances and dives, a beloved creature who finally belongs.

1. At the beginning of the story, when did Bat fly and play?
 - a) Only at night
 - b) Only in the morning
 - c) Both by day and by night
 - d) He never flew
2. Why did Bat feel he didn't belong with the birds at their festival?
 - a) He couldn't sing well.
 - b) He didn't have bright, colorful feathers.
 - c) He was much larger than they were.
 - d) He was allergic to sunlight.
3. What is the best lesson, or theme, of this story?
 - a) It is better to have only one friend.
 - b) You should always try to be on time.
 - c) The night is more fun than the day.
 - d) It's okay to be unique and find your own place where you belong.
4. How did Bat's experience at the two festivals change him?
 - a) It helped him discover his true home and identity in the night sky.
 - b) It made him angry at all animals.
 - c) It convinced him to become a full-time mouse.
 - d) It taught him to be brighter and more colorful.
5. This story tries to explain why bats fly at night. What do you think is the reason that bats fly mostly at night?
