



Name: _____

Bartholomew and the Upside-Down Rule

In a cozy cave called Cricket Crack, lived a colony of bats who followed one simple rule: they all hung upside down to sleep. All except for one young bat named Bartholomew.

Bartholomew thought this tradition was terribly tiresome. "My ears feel full, my head feels dizzy, and my feet are always falling asleep!" he would complain. "Why must we do this? It's utterly undignified!"

His mother would sigh. "It is the bat way, Bartholomew. It keeps us safe and ready for flight."

But Bartholomew was determined to find a better way. One evening, as the other bats began to stir for their nightly hunt, Bartholomew declared, "I am not hanging upside down tonight. I will sleep right-side up, like the sensible birds do!"

He found a nice, flat ledge near the cave entrance. He curled up, rested his head on his wings, and felt very proud of himself. "This is much more comfortable," he thought. "Soon, everyone will see how clever I am."

The moon rose, and the other bats streamed into the night sky. Bartholomew, cozy on his ledge, drifted into a deep sleep.

He dreamed of soaring through the sky, but suddenly, he felt a shadow fall over him. In his dream, a great horned owl with eyes like golden moons swooped silently toward him. Bartholomew tried to fly away, but his claws were stuck!

He woke with a jolt, his heart pounding. It wasn't a dream. The silhouette of a large owl was perched right at the entrance of the cave, staring directly at him! Because Bartholomew was right-side up, he looked just like a little mouse or a helpless creature, an easy snack.

Terrified, Bartholomew tried to drop into flight, but he had to scramble and push off the ledge—a slow and clumsy process. The owl, seeing the movement, spread its vast wings and prepared to strike.

Just then, a chorus of squeaks erupted from the ceiling! The entire bat colony, having heard the commotion, dropped instantly from their upside-down perches. They fell as one, a swirling, screeching cloud of fury, confusing the owl and driving it away from the cave entrance.

Shaking, Bartholomew finally managed to get airborne and joined the safety of the flock.

The elder bat, a wise old soul named Elara, flew beside him. "Do you understand now, little one?" she asked gently. "Hanging upside down is not just a tradition. It is our strategy. It lets us drop into flight instantly, away from danger. What seems uncomfortable is actually our greatest protection."

Bartholomew finally understood. He had traded a little discomfort for a great deal of danger. From that night on, he hung contentedly upside down with his family, never again complaining about the bat way.





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1. Where does Bartholomew decide to sleep at the beginning of the story?
 - a) In a tall tree
 - b) On a high branch
 - c) On a flat ledge
 - d) In a hollow log

2. Why was the owl able to spot Bartholomew so easily?
 - a) Because Bartholomew was snoring very loudly.
 - b) Because Bartholomew was glowing in the dark.
 - c) Because he was flying in circles.
 - d) Because sleeping right-side up made him look like an easy target.

3. How did the other bats ultimately save Bartholomew?
 - a) They dropped as a group, creating a confusing cloud to drive the owl away.
 - b) They flew away and left him.
 - c) They built a wall to block the owl.
 - d) They fought the owl one by one.

4. According to Elder Elara, what is the main advantage of hanging upside down?
 - a) It helps bats digest their food.
 - b) It allows them to drop into flight instantly to escape danger.
 - c) It gives them a better view of the cave floor.
 - d) It is the most comfortable position.

5. Which sentence best shows the story's moral, "Being safe is more important than being comfortable"?
 - a) "It lets us drop into flight instantly, away from danger."
 - b) "This is much more comfortable," he thought.
 - c) "Why must we do this? It's utterly undignified!"
 - d) "The moon rose, and the other bats streamed into the night sky."

6. The word "strike" has multiple meanings. Read the sentence from the story:
"The owl, seeing the movement, spread its vast wings and prepared to **strike**."
Which sentence uses the word "strike" in the same way?
 - a) The clock will strike midnight, and the spell will be broken.
 - b) The baseball player hoped to strike the ball with his bat.
 - c) The snake will strike quickly if it feels threatened.