



Name: _____

The Bat Who Stood Up

Characters:

Narrator 1

Narrator 2

Bella: A young bat who is tired of hanging upside down.

Mama Bat: Bella's patient mother.

Elder Bart: A wise, old bat.

Squeak: Bella's bat friend.

The Owl: A silent, looming figure.

Bat Chorus: The rest of the bat colony.

Setting: A cave called "Echo Hollow." The main stage area is the cave floor. Upstage, there is a raised platform or a row of chairs turned backward that the Bat Chorus can hang from to represent the ceiling.

Props: Simple black capes or wings for the bats. A large, feathered mask or wings for the Owl.

(Scene 1: Inside Echo Hollow Cave. The BAT CHORUS is hanging upside down from the platform/chairs, sleeping. BELLA is fidgeting.)

Narrator 1: In a deep, dark cave called Echo Hollow, lived a colony of bats. They had one very important rule.

Narrator 2: They all slept hanging upside down. All except for one young bat named Bella.

Bella: (Loud sigh) Oh, my feet are asleep! My head is dizzy! Why do we have to hang like this all day? It's so... topsy-turvy!

Mama Bat: (Without opening her eyes) Shhh, Bella. It is the bat way. It keeps us safe and ready.

Bella: But it's not comfortable! I want to sleep right-side up, like the sensible birds do. It looks much more dignified.

Squeak: (Waking up) Did someone say "dignified"? What's that?

Bella: It means standing tall, Squeak! Not dangling like a fuzzy piece of fruit.

Elder Bart: (In a deep, wise voice) This "dangling" has served our colony for a thousand moons, little one. There is wisdom in our ways.

Bella: Well, tonight, I am trying a new way! I'm sleeping on the cave floor. You'll see. It will be brilliant!

(Bella flies down from the ceiling and finds a spot on the main stage. She curls up, resting her head on her wings.)



Name: _____

Narrator 1: And so, as the other bats began to wake up and stretch their wings for the night's hunt, Bella fell fast asleep on the cave floor.

Narrator 2: She dreamed of soaring through starlit skies.

(The BAT CHORUS begins to stir and stretch. They pretend to fly off the platform and exit the stage, chattering.)

(Scene 2: Later that night. The stage is dark. A single spotlight is on BELLA, sleeping on the floor. The OWL enters silently and stands at the edge of the stage, watching Bella.)

Narrator 1: But outside the cave, a danger was near. A Great Horned Owl, with eyes that could see in the dark, had spotted something unusual in the cave entrance.

Narrator 2: There, on the floor, was Bella. Sleeping right-side up, she didn't look like a bat ready to fly. She looked like a little, furry creature, perfect for a midnight snack.

(The OWL takes a slow, silent step closer. Bella twitches in her sleep.)

Bella: (In her sleep) No... my claws are stuck... I can't fly...

(She wakes up with a jolt and sees the Owl. She gasps.)

Bella: AHH! An owl!

(Bella scrambles to her feet. She tries to fly but has to run and jump first. She is slow and clumsy. The Owl spreads its wings, ready to pounce.)

Bella: Help! Somebody, help!

(Just then, the BAT CHORUS and the other characters rush back onto the stage, still on the raised platform/ceiling.)

Squeak: It's Bella! She's in trouble!

Mama Bat: The owl! We must drive it away!

Elder Bart: Colony! For Bella! DROP!

(All the bats on the ceiling let go at once, making a loud, collective "SWOOSH" sound. They swirl around the Owl, squeaking loudly. The Owl looks confused and frightened, covering its head. It runs off the stage.)

(The bats land safely around Bella.)



Name: _____

Mama Bat: (Hugging Bella) Bella! You're safe! We were so worried.

Bella: (Crying a little) It was so scary! I couldn't get away. I was so slow!

Squeak: That's why we hang upside down, Bella! We can drop and fly in a second!

Elder Bart: (Gently) Comfort is important, little one. But what is the wisest comfort? Is it what feels easiest? Or is it what keeps you safe?

Bella: I understand now. Being comfortable isn't the same as being safe. Hanging upside down is our superpower!

Narrator 1: And from that night on, Bella never complained about hanging upside down again.

Narrator 2: She realized that sometimes, the things that feel a little strange are the very things that protect us.

All Bats: (Together, as they return to the ceiling) The bat way is the safe way!

(All actors take a bow.)