

Jerry the Lazy Jaybird

It was late autumn, and all of the jaybirds were getting ready to fly south for the winter. There was one bird, Jerry, who was snoozing while the other birds were getting ready for their trip down south.

They were packing light--- only their favorite treasures that they couldn't live without. They were also making sure that their nests were secure and neat because they were going to be gone for a long time.

Jerry's mother, Mrs. Jaybird, was one of the birds who was busy getting ready. She was sweeping the living room floor, when she realized that she hadn't seen Jerry in quite a while.

She went back to his bedroom. He'd better not be still in the bed, she thought angrily to herself, as she walked back to his bedroom.

"Jerry, every time we migrate, we go through the same thing! You are always lounging around the nest, when you are supposed to be getting packed up and ready to go! I am not...I repeat...I am not going to pack for you this time! If you are not ready to go, then we are going to leave you, Mister! Do you hear me? We are going to leave you!"

"I hope that you do leave me," he mumbled, as he turned over in his bed.

"What was that?" asked Mom.

"Nothing," said Jerry.

"I'm serious," said Mom. "I'm going to leave you. Do you hear me?"

Jerry answered with a loud string of snores. He had fallen asleep.

A few hours later, Bob, one of Jerry's best friends came to see him. Jerry was still in the bed. He was eating fried worms and reading a flying magazine.

"Hey, Jerry," said Bob. "We're getting ready to go south. Aren't you leaving with us?"

"You are going to be cold and hungry," warned Bob.

"No, I'm not," said Jerry confidently, as he rubbed his eyes and sat up in his bed.

"Why not?" asked Bob.

"Well, look, do you see that big nest over there where the humans live?" asked Jerry, as he pointed to a large brick house.

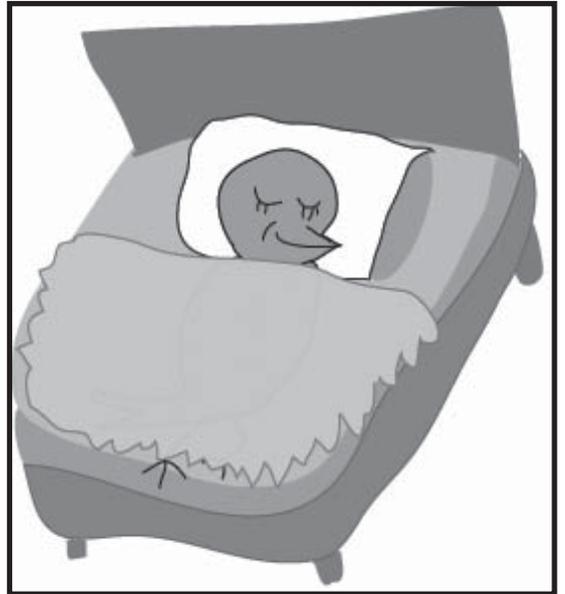
Bob nodded, still confused.

"Yeah, well, so I was watching the humans over there, and I noticed that they don't go anywhere for the winter," he said. "I figured that I would just crash with them."

"How will you get them to let you in?" asked Bob. He was becoming interested in Jerry's idea.

"Well, I've been watching them, and I've noticed that they knock on the door and say 'Let me in. Let me in.' Then someone appears at the door and lets them in."

"So you think it might work?" asked Bob, who was beginning to get excited.



“Yeah, I’m almost sure it will,” said Jerry. “Are you in?”

“Yeah,” said Bob. “I’m in, let’s do it.”

So Bob and Jerry flew up to the human’s house.

They noticed a human. He was a little boy. The little boy knocked on the door and said, “Let me in. Let me in,” and sure enough, another human came to the door and let the little boy in.

“Wow, it really does work!” exclaimed Bob.

“I told ya,” said Jerry boastfully, as he flew up to the door.

First Jerry pecked on the door with his beak, and said, “Let Me in. Let me in.” Actually, he thought that he was saying, “Let me in. Let me in,” but all the humans heard was *tweet tweet tweet, tweet tweet tweet*.

The first attempt was unsuccessful, so he tried again. He pecked on the door and said, “Let me in. Let me in.” (Again all the humans heard was *tweet tweet tweet, tweet tweet tweet*.)

Jerry turned to Bob and asked, “Isn’t that how you say it: Let me in, Let me in?”

“Yeah,” said Bob, who was a little confused. “Sounds right to me. Try it again.”

So Jerry tried it again, but still no one let him in.

“Uh, look here,” said Bob. “I think I can still catch the other birds. I’m going to go ahead and leave.”

Jerry continued until a human finally came to the door.

“See I told you it was a bird making all of that noise,” said the mother human.

Just as the father human opened the door, Jerry flew in.

The little girl began to scream. “Oh! No! A bird! Daddy, get him, get him!”

“Don’t hurt the bird!” yelled the little boy.

I am not going to hurt him; I’m just going to get him to go back outside. Birds don’t belong in houses, just like humans don’t belong in nests,” said Dad.

The father took a broom and shewed Jerry back out of the house.

Jerry flew back to his nest. It was empty. All of the other birds had flown south for the winter.

Jerry sat on the front porch and began to cry. He felt so alone and scared. And now it was getting cold and dark. Why didn’t I just fly back with the other birds, thought Jerry. By now, they would be flying together and singing songs and telling stories. It was a long flight, but it was not so bad, as long as they had each other.

That father human was right, thought Jerry; birds don’t belong in houses.

He thought about trying to find the other birds, but they had left so long ago; Jerry had no idea where they had flown. He had no idea which direction was south.

Jerry went back to his little bedroom, and got under the covers. As the cold night air began to settle in, Jerry began to shiver. He also began to cry.

Just as Jerry was about to fall off to sleep, he heard his mother’s voice. He thought he was dreaming.

“Come on, Jerry, let’s go south,” she said.

“But, Mom, I thought everyone had already left,” he said.

“They have, but there’s another group leaving in a few minutes,” she said. “If you

hurry up, we can catch up with them.”

Jerry and his mother rushed and packed up his things.

“Mom, why did you come back for me?” asked Jerry, as they flew to meet the other birds, who were flying south.

“Because I love you, and I didn’t want you to be cold and hungry,” said Mom.

“I love you too,” said Jerry. “And the next time we migrate, I’ll be the first one packed and ready to go.”

“You’d better be,” said Mom. “You’d better be.”

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. At the beginning of the story, what was Jerry doing while the other birds were getting ready to fly south for the winter?
 - A. playing
 - B. eating
 - C. sleeping
 - D. reading
2. What is this selection *mainly* about?
 - A. Jerry eating fried worms
 - B. Jerry hanging out with his friend Bob
 - C. Jerry flying into the human’s house
 - D. Jerry trying to avoid flying south
3. When Jerry thought that he was saying, “Let me in. Let me in,” what did the humans hear?
 - A. “Let me in. Let me in.”
 - B. *tweet tweet tweet, tweet tweet tweet*
 - C. *buzz buzz buzz, buzz buzz buzz*
 - D. “How are you?”

Critical Thinking

1. How does Jerry change throughout the story?

2. Describe Mrs. Jaybird. What type of mother is she?

Research

1. Research bird migration and write a paragraph or two about it.



Bird Migration

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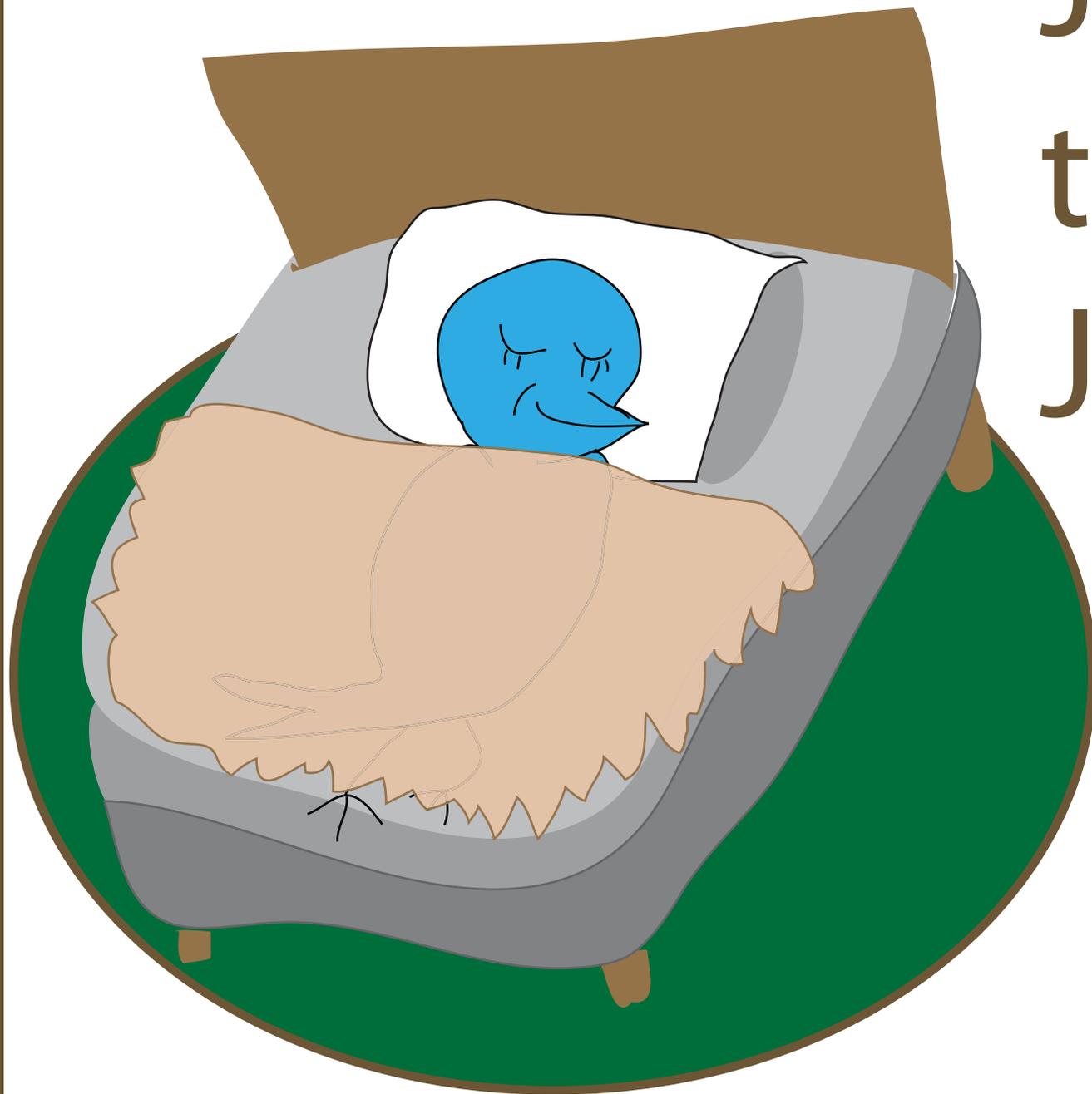
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