

The Greedy Bird

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

A crow sat on a tree branch and watched a happy cat eat below him. The crow cawed angrily down at the cat, and the cat lazily turned one eye up toward the bird and grinned.

"That must be nice." The bird said. "Someone gives you free food every day."

"I can't complain." The cat admitted, licking his paws.

"How about you let me come have a few bites?" The crow asked. After all, it looked like the fat cat was full.

"Why?" The cat asked.

"I'm poor and hungry." The crow said pitifully.

"Well, maybe you can have just a bite or two." The cat agreed.

"Really? You won't just try to eat me?" The bird asked suspiciously.

"Why? I'm full, and this food doesn't have bones or feathers to worry about. Yuck! I don't want to eat something that's not delicious."

The crow wasn't convinced yet. "Move a few steps back, just in case."

The cat yawned and moved back a step or two. Then it sat back down to lick its fur clean again. The crow flew down next to the bowl and stole one piece of cat food. It flew away to the safety of the tree once more and munched down the food.

"See?" The cat said. "I'm too full to care. Have some more if you want."

The crow thought for a moment. It was pretty good food. It was easier than hunting for bugs or worms, too. Reluctantly, he swooped down and got another piece, flying back to the tree once more to eat it.

The cat smiled. "It's good, right?"

"A little more, please?"

The cat shrugged lazily. "Why not? Help yourself."

This time, the bird flew down and ate from the edge of the bowl. He didn't fly back to the safety of his tree to eat. The cat watched him, but seemed completely happy licking his fur. The crow found that he was hungrier than he thought, and began to eat quickly.

After he finished, the crow sighed. "Thank you, cat. That was a great meal! I can hardly move, because I'm so stuffed!"

As soon as he finished speaking, the cat leapt on the crow and gobbled him down. "That's what I was waiting for." He smiled to himself and went back home. This wasn't even his house, and that hadn't been his food.



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What does the crow want from the cat?
 - A. His food
 - B. His nest
 - C. His toy
 - D. His water

2. How would you *best* describe the crow?
 - A. Mean
 - B. Hungry
 - C. Lazy
 - D. Foolish

3. True or False: The cat let the crow have some food.
 - A. True
 - B. False

4. Why did the crow trust the cat?
 - A. They were old friends.
 - B. The cat said he'd go inside and let the crow eat.
 - C. The cat was very friendly
 - D. The cat didn't attack him the first couple times he ate food.

5. Why did the cat really let the crow eat the food?
 - A. He's a nice cat.
 - B. He's already full.
 - C. He wants to eat the bird.
 - D. None of the above

The Greedy Bird – Answer Key

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