

“The Animal School”

Written by Unknown Author

Adapted for theatre by Jennifer L. Bell

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Narrator: Once upon a time the animals decided they must do something decisive to meet the increasing complexity of their society.

Enter the animals.

Narrator: They held a town hall meeting and finally decided to organize a school. The curriculum consisted of running, swimming, and flying. Since these were the basic behaviors of most animals, they decided that all the students should take all of the subjects and pass them with at least 70%.

Animals exit with excitement.

Enter the duck.

Duck: Quack! Quack!

Narrator: The duck proved to be excellent at swimming, better in fact than his teacher. He also did well in flying, but he proved to be very poor in running. Since he was poor in this subject he was made to stay after school to practice it and even had to drop swimming in order to get more time in which to practice running. He was kept at this poorest subject until his webbed feet were so badly damaged that he became only average at swimming. But average was acceptable in the school so nobody worried about that - except the duck.

Duck exits with great sadness.

Enter the frog.

Frog: Ribbett! Ribbett!

Narrator: The frog, too, was good at swimming, but his talent was hopping. More matter how hard he tried, he could not run or fly. Once he tried to fool the teacher by hopping out of the pond onto the log. The entire class thought it was funny, but the teacher did not laugh. The frog had to stay after school and write "I will not disrupt the class!" 50 times.

Frog exits with anger.

Enter the horse.

Horse: Hhheee! Hhheee!

Narrator: The horse started at the top of his class in running, but finally had a nervous breakdown because of so much make-up time in swimming - a subject he hated.

Horse exits with disgust.

Enter the monkey.

Monkey: Whoahihee! Whoahihee!

Narrator: The monkey was excellent in climbing until he developed psychological blocking in flying class when the teacher insisted he start from the ground instead of from the tops of the trees. He was kept at attempting to fly until he became muscle bound - and received a C in climbing and a D in running.

Monkey exits in a lot of pain.

Enter the parrot.

Parrot: (*Whistle*) I am a pretty girl!

Narrator: The parrot was the school's worst discipline problem, in climbing class he beat all of the others to the top of the tree used for examination purposes in this subject, but he insisted on using his own method of getting there.

Parrot exits with a sassy walk.

Enter the pig.

Pig: Ouck! Ouck!

Narrator: The pig of course, stayed out of the school and fought the tax levied for education because grazing and mudbathing were not included in the curriculum. They apprenticed their piglets to the cows.

Enter the cow.

Cow: Moo! Moo!

Narrator: Later, the calves and piglets joined the elephants ...

Enter the elephant.

Elephant: (*trumpet roaring sound*)

Narrator: ... and eventually started a private school offering an alternative curriculum.

Animals exit with animation.