



Daft Bat

by Jeanne Willis

Learning to See Things from a Different Point of View

2020 is definitely a very challenging year! One skill that could help all of us during this year and into the future is that of being able to *see things from a different point of view*. This skill is important for everyone to cultivate; that is, children and adults alike.

In the read-aloud, *Daft Bat*, author Jeanne Willis wants the characters in the story, as well as the readers/listeners, to *try looking at things* from another individual's point of view so *they might see things very differently*.

After reading or listening to *Daft Bat*, (Check YouTube for a read-aloud for this book), think about the questions below and how you might strengthen your ability to see things from a *different point of view*.

1. When Bat arrived in the forest, the other animals wanted to give her a welcome gift. When they asked her what she wanted, she said, "I'd like an umbrella to keep my feet dry." That is an unusual use for an umbrella. Let's think about a common, every-day object like the umbrella. Let's think, for example, of a pencil, or a spoon, or a paperclip. Can you think of 5 uses for one of these items that are different from the traditional one. *Try to be flexible, creative, and original in your thinking.
2. Schools look different in these challenging times. There are lots and lots of ideas for how schools should operate that will keep everyone learning in a safe environment. Make a list of all the different ways school could happen in 2020. From your list or the list the class has compiled, pick the one way you think is best. Then take one of the ways you do not like and try to see it from a different point of view. In other words, think of at least 2 or 3 reasons why that way might be a good idea.

3. *Summary of Jack and the Beanstalk:*

Jack is a very poor little boy who lives in the forest with his mother. One day his mother asks Jack to sell their cow because the cow no longer produces any milk. Rather than sell the cow for money, Jack exchanges the cow for magical beans. Jack's mother is furious with Jack and throws the beans out the window. The beans sprout into a giant beanstalk.

Curious about what is at the top of the beanstalk, Jack climbs up the beanstalk and finds a castle. Soon Jack begins to steal from the giant who lives in the castle. Jack steals a bag of gold, a chicken that lays golden eggs, and a golden harp from the giant. The giant chases Jack. Jack climbs down the beanstalk and cuts it down. The giant falls to his death. Jack gives all the gold to his mother so they can live happily ever after.

Do you think Jack is a hero or a villain? Once you have your opinion, try to see it from the other point of view. If you think he is a hero, think of three reasons he should be considered a villain. If you think he is a villain, give 3 reasons he should be considered a hero.