

Feeding the Birds

Ben and his family were on their first trip to the zoo. The main thing Ben wanted to do was to feed the parrots. He knew when it was feeding time, and he didn't want to miss it.

His family hurried to the large birdcage. Most of the people were already inside. Ben was upset because he wanted to be the first one in line. When he got inside the cage, the zoo guide was telling everyone the rules about how to feed the birds.

"First, you get some apple pieces out of one of the blue buckets, and you hold the pieces in your hand. Then you stand and wait for the birds to fly to you." The most important rule was to keep the apple pieces clean. If any of the pieces fell to the ground, you needed to throw it in one of the red buckets.

Everyone got apple pieces and waited for the birds. Ben got an apple piece too. The door was opened so the birds could fly to the people and eat. At first, nothing happened. Then, green and blue colored birds flew into the big cage and onto the hands filled with apples. One bird flew right by Ben's face. He was so surprised it made him jump back. He quickly closed his hand around his apple piece and hid it behind his back.

Ben thought those parrots looked a lot bigger now that he was inside the cage with them. He watched as the birds ate. The birds were sitting on fingers, arms, shoulders, and even heads. Ben felt less afraid when he saw that people were having a good time while they fed the birds.

Then Ben saw some bright red birds off by themselves at the far end of the cage. The zoo guide said the red birds were new to the zoo, and they were very shy. They hadn't learned how to eat from people's hands yet, but if people wanted to try to feed them they could.

Ben wanted to feed the new birds. He walked over to a red bird. He slowly put his hand out. The bird stared at Ben. Then it saw the apple piece in Ben's hand. It took a bite, knocking the apple piece to the ground. Ben couldn't let the bird eat that piece, so he threw it away.

He walked over to the same bird with more apple pieces. He held out his hand again. This time the bird climbed onto his finger and ate. The other red birds watched it eating. One of them flew to Ben's shoulder. Ben was surprised but not afraid. Then it walked down Ben's arm to eat too. Another bird flew to Ben's head. Soon, Ben had five red birds eating out of his hand. He would always remember this trip to the zoo.

- 1. What did Ben want to do most at the zoo?**
 - A. Feed the parrots.
 - B. Touch the parrots.
 - C. Watch the parrots fly.

- 2. What was the most important rule for feeding the parrots?**
 - A. Throw apple pieces in the buckets.
 - B. Don't touch or chase the birds.
 - C. Keep the apple pieces clean.

- 3. What made Ben upset when he got to the birdcage?**
 - A. He didn't get to be first in line.
 - B. He had to wait to get into the cage.
 - C. There were too many people in the line.

- 4. What happened after the door to the birds was opened?**
 - A. Ben started to feed one of the birds.
 - B. Green and blue colored birds flew out.
 - C. People got apple pieces to feed the birds.

- 5. How did the story end?**
 - A. Ben had to get more apple pieces to feed the birds.
 - B. Ben made friends with one of the red birds.
 - C. Ben had red birds eating out of his hand.

- 6. What made Ben become afraid of the parrots?**
 - A. The parrots looked really big to Ben.
 - B. One flew by his head and surprised him.
 - C. There were too many parrots in the cage.

7. Why did the new red birds stay far away by themselves?

- A. They didn't know how to eat from a person's hand.
- B. They didn't like to be around the other birds.
- C. They didn't care about eating pieces of apple.

8. What happened the first time Ben tried to feed a red bird?

- A. The bird flew around Ben's head.
- B. The bird just looked at Ben and didn't eat.
- C. The bird knocked the apple piece to the ground.

9. What was the second rule about feeding the parrots?

- A. Get apple pieces and hold them.
- B. Wait for the birds to fly to you.
- C. Put apple pieces in the red bucket.

10. What did this story mostly tell about?

- A. A young boy feeding parrots at a zoo.
- B. Rules for how to feed parrots at the zoo.
- C. A family going to the zoo for the first time.

11. What were the people supposed to do first when they fed the birds?

- A. Get apple pieces from a bucket.
- B. Call to the birds to come to them.
- C. Throw pieces of apples to the birds.

12. Why did Ben put his hand with the apple piece behind his back?

- A. He wanted to see if the birds could find it.
- B. He was afraid to have the birds fly around him.
- C. He wanted to save it to feed the red birds.