

“The Bat of Colors”

A Tale from Mexico – Gathered from our partnership in Theatre for Youth class with students from Universidad Regionmontana, Monterrey, Mexico –Fall, 2012

Characters:

Narrator

Bat

Hummingbird

Birds

The creator

Narrator

Once upon a time there was a beautiful bat. In fact, the bat was the most beautiful creature of the creation. But the bat was not satisfied with his looks and ascended into the heavens to ask the creator for feathers.

Bat

I am not happy with how I look! I think I will fly up into the sky and ask the creator if I might have some beautiful feathers.

Narrator

So, up, up, up into the sky flew the bat until he reached the creator.

(Bat mimics flying up into the sky by flying in a circle.)

Bat

That was a long way to fly, but I’m finally here! Oh, most honored creator! I am here to ask for your permission to ask the other birds for their feathers. This will make me even more beautiful!

Creator

You have my permission to ask the other birds for their feathers.

Bat

Oh, thank you, thank you, most honored one! I'm going to be more beautiful! I'm going to be more beautiful! I'm going to be more beautiful than all the rest!

Narrator

So the Bat flew back down to the earth and as the birds of the animal kingdom flew by him, he demanded that they give him their feathers.

Bat

Oh, bird! You there! Give me your best feathers! Give me your most beautiful feathers! Give me your most colorful feathers!

(Each of the birds protests, with "but those are my feathers, but I won't have any feathers left", but reluctantly gives the Bat their feathers)

Narrator

After the Bat had collected all of the most beautiful, best and colorful feathers from the other birds he looked proud and happily flew around the earth showing off his new amazing look.

Bat

Why I look spectacular! I look amazing! I look beautiful!! Just look at me!!

Narrator

All of the birds watched in amazement as the Bat showed off their wonderful feathers.

Birds

You look amazing! Beautiful! Magnificent! Dazzling!

Narrator

All of the compliments went to the Bat's head, however, and his pride took over his reasoning. He looked at the other birds and strutted past them.

Bat

I am more beautiful than all of you! And you, hummingbird, you are not as graceful as I am!

Hummingbird (s)

Oh, my! That's not a very nice thing to say! Oh, dear! Too much pride! Too much pride!

Narrator

The Bat continued to proclaim how much better he was than any of the other animals of the kingdom and they were sad. But after observing the actions of the Bat, the creator decided to call the Bat back up into the heavens.

Bat

Do you see how special I am? The creator has decided to call me back up into the heavens!

Birds

Too much pride! Too much pride!

Narrator

Once again, the Bat, paraded around as if he were the most beautiful animal in the kingdom. He was flattered to be asked by the creator to come back up into the heavens. So, up. Up, up. He went until he saw the creator.

Bat

Oh, most honored one! I know that you called me because I am the most beautiful, the most colorful, the most amazing of all!

Creator

Oh? So you feel you are better than the rest of the animals in the kingdom.

Bat

Oh, yes! Oh, yes! I am better than all the rest! I am more beautiful! I am more colorful! I am better than the rest! Just look at me! Just look at me!

Narrator

As the Bat danced and pranced around the heavens, his feathers began to fall. And they fell and they fell, until the bat had no feathers on whatsoever!

Bat

Arrkkkk! My feathers! My feathers! They are all gone! I am no longer beautiful! I am no longer beautiful!

Narrator

The Bat was so embarrassed that he went back down to earth and hid in the caves and refused to be able to see. For he did not want to see the beautiful feathers falling to the earth. And to this day, the Bat only comes out at night, in the dark, so that cannot see the beautiful feathers he once wore with too much pride.

Bat

Too much pride!

And that was...THE END!