

Apple the Cat Calls a Meeting to Order

by ReadWorks



It's a sunny morning in the one-room apartment, and the girl is sleeping peacefully in her bed.

Under the table across the room, someone is not asleep but awake and alert. Apple the Cat has an important mission, but she's going to need some help. She's already tried everything she could do on her own, but she's beginning to realize this mission is not so simple. She will have to call in reinforcements.

She tried meows and playful taps of the paw, but nothing could wake the sleeping girl.

Apple calls a meeting to order. A few of her trusty friends are in attendance. She has summoned Fur Toy, Feather Stick, Bear Bear, and Shoe.

"We have an important subject to debate," says Apple.

Bear Bear is grumpy because he doesn't know what could possibly be important enough to call a meeting to order so early in the morning.

"This couldn't wait until later?" he grunts.

Apple ignores the cranky bear and continues addressing the crowd.

"I need to wake the human!" Apple declares.

"Have you tried meowing?" asks Feather Stick.

"I already tried that," says Apple impatiently.

"What about playful taps?" Feather Stick persists.

"No," says Apple. "Today we need a new plan. Nothing seems to wake her."

"I have an idea!" shouts Fur Toy. He's new in the room and always trying to prove himself with the others.

"What about walking by her and gently rubbing her with your whiskers?" he proposes.

Shoe rolls her eyes.

"Something new, Fur Toy," she says. "We all know that's the oldest trick in the book."

"How about you just pounce on her?" says Bear Bear, growing annoyed. All he wants to do is go back to sleep.

The rest shoo him out of the meeting. Everyone knows pouncing is no longer allowed.

"Okay, I've got it," announces Feather Stick proudly, primping his few feathers. "It has to be something loud enough, right?"

"Go on," says Apple.

"What about all those new plates she just bought? What if we broke one?"

"She would be so mad," says Apple, dismissing the plan. "There's no way we can get away with that. We would be in trouble forever, and anyway, she would probably blame it all on me."

"I promise to take some responsibility," says Fur Toy, puffing up his chest.

"Not me," huffs Bear Bear from across the room.

"Nobody asked you, Bear Bear," says Shoe. She begins tying up her laces.

"Wait-Shoe, you think this is a good idea?" asks Apple. When Shoe ties up her laces, everyone knows she means business.

"I don't know, it could work," she admits. "Plus, what does she need all those dishes for?"

Apple thinks about it. She doesn't want to upset the girl, but she really needs to wake her.

"Wait just a minute, here," says Bear Bear from a few feet away. "What is SO important you can't possibly wait for her to wake up?"

Apple pretends not to hear him, but the others begin to nod in agreement. Only Feather Stick seems unconcerned as he continues to preen his feathers and play in the patches of streaming sunlight from the window.

"Yeah, I mean, what is so important?" demands Shoe.

"Fine," says Apple. "I'll admit-it's about time I got a treat. The girl has been so busy lately, it's been days since my last treat! I'm going crazy here. I love those things!"

"So what do we get out of this?" asks Fur Toy.

"How does my undying appreciation sound?" replies Apple.

There is some hesitation among the others, but everyone knows Apple is most loved by the human, so it doesn't take much convincing.

"Now we just need a plan," she says.

"Well, I've got one," interjects Fur Toy. "If we all climb to the top of the counter and jump at the same time, surely that will be enough force to break the top plate!"

Apple is hesitant; she really does not want to upset the girl, but she couldn't be more desperate for a treat. She finally agrees to the plan. What could go wrong? Plates are replaceable, and surely the girl won't mind. On the other hand, despite being the most loved, she is also likely to be the first blamed for the mishap.

Apple, Shoe, and the toys, with the exclusion of Bear Bear, who watches from afar, climb together to the top of the shelf.

"On my count," says Shoe, grumbling something about how she's too old to be doing this.

"1....2.....3!" They all jump, but their timing isn't quite right, and Fur Toy and Feather Stick miss the plate altogether. They hardly make a peep and the plate remains unbroken.

"Let's try that again with more force and better timing," says Fur Toy, blushing a bit.

They climb the counter, and Apple takes charge.

"Okay, everyone," she says. "We have to hold onto each other and jump together toward the middle of the top plate. Otherwise, we'll never make it."

On the count of three they jump again, and again nothing happens.

"Wait, wait, wait," says Bear Bear from where he's watching. "That's never going to work. You have to shove the darn thing on the floor."

"You know, he's right," agrees Shoe, reluctantly.

The rest nod in solemn agreement.

"Okay," says Apple. "I can probably handle this one on my own, but I have to know you guys have my back."

They nod again, furiously.

Apple creeps to the top of the shelf and then slowly down to the stack of plates. She presses her nose firmly against the stack and nudges the top plate. With a few more nudges it begins to move. She gives it one final nudge and with a loud crash it smashes into the floor. Feather Stick and Fur Toy jump out of sight. Bear Bear is long gone. Shoe is too shocked to move.

The girl leaps out of bed and comes stomping into the kitchen.

"What is going on in here?" she demands, angrily.

Apple can only think of one thing to do in this situation. She rolls onto her back and offers up her soft, patterned underbelly to the girl. She flicks her paws in the air and meows as gently as she can.

"Aww," the girl coos. "How could I ever be mad at you?"

She pulls a bag down from the cabinet and offers Apple a treat.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Why does Apple the cat call a meeting?

- A. to help Bear Bear and Feather Stick become friends
- B. to find a way of getting into the cabinet where the treats are
- C. to discuss why pouncing on the human is no longer allowed
- D. to come up with a plan for waking the human

2. The problem Apple faces in this story is how to wake the human. How does Apple solve this problem?

- A. by gently rubbing the human with her whiskers
- B. by pouncing on the human
- C. by pushing a plate off a shelf
- D. by jumping on top of the counter

3. At first Apple does not like the plan of breaking a plate to wake the girl.

What evidence from the passage supports this statement?

- A. "'She would be so mad,' says Apple, dismissing the plan. 'There's no way we can get away with that.'"
- B. "Apple creeps to the top of the shelf and then slowly down to the stack of plates. She presses her nose firmly against the stack and nudges the top plate."
- C. "Apple can only think of one thing to do in this situation. She rolls onto her back and offers up her soft, patterned underbelly to the girl."
- D. "Apple calls a meeting to order. A few of her trusty friends are in attendance."

4. Why does Apple change her mind and accept the plan to break a plate?

- A. Apple is worried that the girl will get mad.
- B. Apple really, really wants a treat.
- C. Apple flicks her paws in the air and meows gently.
- D. Apple is getting annoyed with Bear Bear.

5. What is this story mostly about?

- A. a grumpy bear that does not want to be at a meeting called by Apple the cat
- B. a girl who is sleeping peacefully during a sunny morning in her one-room apartment
- C. why Apple the cat is no longer allowed to pounce on the human to wake her up
- D. a cat that makes a plan with her friends to wake the human and get herself a treat

6. Read the following sentences: "'Aww,' the girl **coos**. 'How could I ever be mad at you?'"

What does the word "**coos**" mean?

- A. speaks gently and lovingly
- B. screams in fear and terror
- C. coughs loudly
- D. complains in a very angry voice

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

The plate does not break when Apple and her friends jump; _____, Apple decides to nudge the plate off the shelf.

- A. especially
- B. for instance
- C. first
- D. therefore

8. What does the girl do at the very end of the story?

9. Is Apple's plan successful? Use evidence from the story to explain why or why not.

10. How does the girl feel about Apple at the end of the story? Explain why she feels that way, using evidence from the passage.
