

SECTION 2: How the Cat Became

ANSWERS

READING 1

1. Things were running very smoothly but for one irritant. What was that?

The one irritant was Cat. Cat was the only one among all the busy creatures who seemed to be getting nowhere. He was a real oddity and the others did not know what to make of him.

2. Why was cat's behaviour annoying other creatures?

Cat's behaviour was annoying to other creatures because every night, when the rest of the creatures were sound asleep, Cat produced screeching, wailing sounds from his violin. Moreover, the fact that Cat never did any work—made no food, built no nest—and just lounged around all day also irritated the other creatures.

3. Cat was happy one. Why?

Cat was a happy one because he lived a life of peace, comfort and leisure. He would be curled in the warm smooth hollow of his tree, gazing up through the hole at the top of the trunk, smiling at the stars, winking at the moon - his violin tucked under his chin. And all night long he sat there composing his tunes.

4. How did the animals persuade cat to change his ways?

The creatures of the wood formed a Committee to persuade Cat to take a job. Jay, Magpie and Parrot went along at dawn and sat in Cat's old tree. As soon as Cat peeked his head out, they all began together: 'You've to get a job. Get a job! Get a job!' All day long, everywhere he went, those birds were at him. Cat could not even get one wink of sleep. The birds continued this until Cat got fed up and decided that he had to get a job.

5. What was the job that Man offered Cat?

Man offered Cat the job of catching rats and mice on his farm.

6. What difficulties did cat face at his job? How did he overcome them?

At first, Cat had a terrible time. The rats pulled his tail, the mice nipped his ears. They climbed on to rafters above him and dropped down onto him in the dark. They teased the life out of him. But Cat was a quick learner. At the end of the week he could lay out a dozen rats and twice as many mice within half an hour.

READING 2

2. Do you like cat? Give reasons to justify your answer.

Sample answer: Yes, I like Cat because not only is he relaxed and fun-loving but also efficient and clever.

- 3. Do you think the animals were justified in asking cat to work? Or should they have let cat take his own decisions? Why?**

Sample answers: No, I think the other animals were not justified in asking Cat to work. They should have let him live his life the way he wanted to. Yes, I think the other animals were justified in asking Cat to work because in a society everyone should play a productive role. Ultimately getting a job made Cat's life better too.