

Intermediate Short Stories – “The Singing Bird”

Directions: First read the basic version of the story below. Next, read the advanced version of the same story. Then, try to answer the questions about the story.

Basic Version

Ben has two cats. They are both boys. Their names are Max and Tito. Max is black with yellow eyes. Tito is grey, and his eyes are light blue. They both look very nice and are very fast.



Ben also has a bird. It is a girl. Her name is Lily. She likes to sing.

Sometimes, she sings very loudly. The cats try to find where the singing is coming from. They look around in all places!

Finally, they come to know who is singing. It is the bird! Then, they sit and watch her sing.

Advanced Version

Ben has two cats. They are both *males*. Their names are Max and Tito. Max is black with yellow eyes. Tito is grey, and his eyes are light blue. They both are *beautiful* and very fast.



Ben also has a bird. It is a *female*. Her name is Lily. She likes to sing.

Sometimes, she sings very loudly. Max and Tito try to *discover* who is singing. They look *everywhere*!

Finally, they *understand* who is singing. It is Lily! Then, they sit and watch her sing.

Questions:

1. What kind of pets does Ben have?
2. What are the names of the pets?
3. What color are the cats?
4. Who was singing?

Vocabulary:

To find word definitions: First, find the word in the advanced version of the story. Then, compare this part of the advanced version of the story to the same part of the basic version of the story. This will give you a general definition of the word.

1. What does “*males*” mean? (*paragraph 1, sentence 2*)
2. What does “*beautiful*” mean? (*paragraph 1, sentence 6*)
3. What does “*female*” mean? (*paragraph 2, sentence 2*)
4. What does “*discover*” mean? (*paragraph 3, sentence 2*)
5. What does “*everywhere*” mean? (*paragraph 3, sentence 3*)
6. What does “*understand*” mean? (*paragraph 4, sentence 1*)