Ruffled Feathers 7th GRADE

- A: Did you hear the news? Polly was captured yesterday.
- B: Oh, no! They got another one of us?
- C: I don't understand. The flamingos have a lot more meat on them than we do.
- D: I don't think they want to eat us. I've heard they like the colorful feathers.
- E: They'd need an awful lot of feathers to get off the ground.
- F: I heard a rumor that they kidnap parrots so they can teach them how to talk like a human.
- A: Humans talk? I thought that the annoying sound they made was just to frighten off leopards.
- B: Apparently all that gibberish means something to them.
- C: Huh. So why do they want to talk to parrots?
- D: They clearly think we could teach them something.
- E: Maybe they want to learn how to fly.
- F: or how to crack open nuts. They're really bad at that. Have you seen them try?
- A: That's it! They want to take us to their houses so we can crack open nuts for them.
- B: But once we explain how to crack nuts, couldn't they just crack them on their own?
- C: It's not just parrots, you know. They keep other animals in their houses.
- D: Like dogs and cats. Not big cats, little tiny ones that don't know how to hunt.
- E: I heard of some humans who captured a monkey and kept it in their house.
- F: What a mess! Dogs, cats, parrots, and now a monkey? Why live in a house at all? Just live under a tree.
- A: I wouldn't mind living in a house. I really get tired of all the rain here in the Rain Forest.
- B: And I hear that they feed their house animals. You don't have to look for nuts or berries
- C: Those houses are really small. I don't think you could fly inside a house.
- D: No wonder the pet parrots learn to speak human gibberish! They've gone crazy from boredom.
- E: Cats, dogs, monkeys, humans, parrots- all in the same house?
- F: That's right. They call them "zoos".
- A: You think they took Polly to go live in a zoo?
- B: If Polly manages to learn to speak human gibberish, maybe she'll tell them she doesn't want to live in a house.
- C: After she teaches them to crack nuts, maybe they'll let her go.
- D: Unless they also want her feathers.
- E: She might have trouble flying home without feathers.
- F: Keep your eyes open for a bald parrot walking through the forest.