In a warm and sultry forest far, far away, there once lived a mother fruit bat and her new baby.

Oh, how Mother Bat loved her soft tiny baby. “I’ll name you Stellaluna,” she crooned.

Each night, Mother Bat would carry Stellaluna clutched to her breast as she flew out to search for food.
One night, as Mother Bat followed the heavy scent of ripe fruit, an owl spied her. On silent wings the powerful bird swooped down upon the bats.

Dodging and shrieking, Mother Bat tried to escape, but the owl struck again and again, knocking Stellaluna into the air. Her baby wings were as limp and useless as wet paper.

Down, down she went, faster and faster, into the forest below.
The dark leafy tangle of branches caught Stellaluna as she fell. One twig was small enough for Stellaluna’s tiny feet. Wrapping her wings about her, she clutched the thin branch, trembling with cold and fear.

“Mother,” Stellaluna squeaked. “Where are you?”

By daybreak, the baby bat could hold on no longer. Down, down again she dropped.
Flump! Stellaluna landed headfirst in a soft downy nest, startling the three baby birds who lived there. Stellaluna quickly clambered from the nest and hung out of sight below it. She listened to the babble of the three birds.

“What was that?” cried Flap.

“I don’t know, but it’s hanging by its feet,” chirped Flitter.

“Shhh! Here comes Mama,” hissed Pip.
Flap! In dropped a big green Grasshopper!

mouth.

She climbed into the nest, closed her eyes, and opened her

Finally, though, the little bat could bear it no longer:

things Mama Bird brought.

Stella Luna was terribly hungry— but not for the cray\textsuperscript{y}

always returning with food for her babies.

Many, many times that day Mama Bird flew away.
You're going to fall and break your neck!

"Eeek!" she cried. "Get back up here this instant!

She saw eight thin feathery legs gripping the edge of the nest.

When Mama Bird came home she decided to try it, too. When Mama Bird came home she decided to try it, too. When Mama Bird came home she decided to try it, too. When Mama Bird came home she decided to try it, too.

Once, when Mama was away, the curious baby birds

by her feet.

Except for one thing: Strelliana still liked to sleep hanging

awake all day and sleep at night. She ate bugs even though

Strelliana learned to like the birds. She stayed...
By her feet. Stellaluna behaved as a good bird should. She slept in the nest at night. And she didn't hang about unless she was promised. She ate bugs without making faces.

"You promise to obey all the rules of this house. I will not let you back into this nest unless you promise to do bad things. You are teaching my children to be bad."

The birds chambered back into the nest, but Mama Stellaluna was watching.
I'm just like them, though. Stella Luna, I can fly too.

Their wings worked!

The nest.

By one, pip, flitter, flap, and Stella Luna jumped from

Mama Bird told them it was time to learn to fly. One
crowded.

All the babies grew quickly. Soon the nest became
Stellaluna tried to do the same.

Pip, Fitter, and Flap landed gracefully on a branch.
How embarrassing!
I will see how clumsy I am.

I will fly all day. Stella then told herself, then no one
The three anxious birds went home without her.
But Stellaluna had flown far ahead and was nowhere
dark, said Flap.
"We had better go home or we will get lost in the
The sun is setting," warned Flitter.
new wings.
Flying far from home. They flew for hours, exercising their
The next day, Pip, Flitter, Flap, and Stellaluna went
She didn't hear the soft sound of wings coming near:

thumps and soon fell asleep.

She was deeply slumbering. So she hung by her hand by my feet, "Stella, Stella, sighed. So she hung by her hand, and she dropped into a tree. "I promised not to

All alone, Stella, flew and flew until her wings
Wrong for a bird, maybe, but not for a bat.

... upside down. She said I was wrong.

Stellarina was confused. "Mama Bird told me I was upside down."

That makes me right side up!"

The creature said, "I'm a bat, I am hanging by my feet.

"Ah, but you're a bat. Bats hang by their feet. You are upside down by your thumbs, so that makes you upside down.

"Ach, but you're a bat! Bats hang by their feet. You are upside down."

"Hey!" a loud voice said. "Why are you hanging upside down?"
"You are my baby."

Sniffing Stellaluna fur, she whispered, "You are Stellaluna.

Through the crowd, "An owl attacked you," she asked.

"Wait! Wait! Let me look at this child," a bat pushed.

"How very strange," they all murmured.

"You slept at night?" Gasped another.

"You are p-ugly?" Stunned one.

A bat who behaved like a bird, Stellaluna told them her story.

More bats gathered around to see the strange young bat.
to eat another bug as long as you live.
where to find the most delicious fruit. You'll never have
around Stellaluna. "Come with me and I'll show you
"Yes," said Mother Bat as she wrapped her wings
survived?"
"You escaped the owl?" cried Stellaluna. "You
her path.

shine from her eyes. She was able to see everything in
Stellaluna could see. She felt as though rays of light
dropped into the deep blue sky.

Stellaluna was afraid, but she let go of the tree and

darkness. Come with us.

"We're bats," said Mother Bat. "We can see in

fly in the dark or we will crash into trees."

"But it's nighttime," Stellaluna squeaked. "We can't"
“And Flapi!”

Stellaluna as she stuffed herself full. “I must tell Pip, Flitter,

I’ll never eat another bug as long as I live,” cheered

as much of the fruit as she could hold.

Soon the bars found a mango tree and Stellaluna ate
Fly at night.
Wait until dark. Stellaluna said excitedly. "We will
So the birds hung by their feet.
upside down here.
As the birds flew among the bars, Flap said, "I feel
to the birds on the way.
they eat the best food in the world."
they hang by their feet and they fly at night and
Okay, let's go," agreed Pip.
Stellaluna.
"Come with me and meet my bat family," said
The next day Stellaluna went to visit the birds.
branch. Stellaluna hung from the limb above them.
the air. She lifted them to a tree, and the birds grasped a
Stellaluna swooped about, grabbing her friends in
rescue them!"
"They're going to crash." Gasped Stellaluna. "I must
"Aaceei!" shrieked Flap.
"Neither can I," howled Flitter.
"I can't see a thing!" yelled Pip.
and Flap leapt from the tree to follow her.
When night came Stellaluna flew away. Pip, Flitter,
And that's a fact.

"I agree," said Stellaluna. "But we're friends, Pip and Flap chipped.

"I think this is quite a mystery," Pip chipped.

"How can we be so different and feel so much alike?" wondered Pip.

"And how can we feel so different and be so much alike?"

"How can we be so different and feel so much alike?"

They perched in silence for a long time.

Pip and Flap nodded.

"We wish you could land on your feet," Flap replied.

"You could see in the dark, too!"

"We're safe," said Stellaluna. "Then she sighed, "I wish..."