

## Prompting the Parrot

A woman bought a parrot to keep her company. She took him home, but returned the bird to the store the next day. “This bird doesn’t talk,” she told the owner.

“Does he have a mirror in his cage?” asked the owner. “Parrots love mirrors. They see themselves in the mirror and start up a conversation.” The woman bought a mirror and left. The next day, she returned. The bird still wasn’t talking.

“How about a ladder?” the store owner inquired. “Parrots love walking up and down a ladder. A happy parrot is more likely to talk.” The woman bought a ladder and left. You guessed it: She was back the next day; the bird still wasn’t talking.

“Does your parrot have a swing?” the owner asked. “If not, that’s the problem. He’ll relax and talk up a storm.” The woman reluctantly bought a swing and left.

When she walked into the store the next day, her countenance had changed. “The parrot died,” she said. The pet store owner was shocked.

“I’m so sorry. Tell me, did he ever say a word?” he asked.

“Yes, right before he died,” the woman replied. “He said, ‘Don’t they sell any food at that pet store?’”

Maybe that story provides a chuckle or two, but it also delivers an important message. We can do wonderful and entertaining acts for our residents, but let’s keep the priorities of their care in the right order.



– Beecher Hunter