

## The Animal School

By George H. Reavis from Chicken Soup for the Soul

Once upon a time, the animals decided they must do something heroic to meet the problems of ‘a new world’. So they organized a school. They adopted an activity curriculum consisting of running, climbing, swimming, and flying. To make it easier to administer the curriculum, all the animals took all the subjects.



The duck was excellent in swimming, in fact better than his instructor, but he made only passing grades in flying and was very poor in running. Since he was slow in running, he had to stay after school and also dropped swimming in order to practice running. This was kept up until his webbed feet were badly worn and he was then only average in swimming. But average was acceptable in school, so nobody worried about that except the duck.

The rabbit started at the top of the class in running, but had a nervous breakdown because of so much make-up work in swimming.



The squirrel was excellent in climbing until he developed frustration in the flying class where his teacher made him start from the ground up instead of from the treetop down. He also developed a ‘charlie horse’ from overexertion and then got a C in climbing and a D in running.

The eagle was a problem child  
In the climbing class  
the tree, but insisted on using



and was disciplined severely.  
he beat all the others to the top of  
his own way to get there.

At the end of the year, an abnormal eel that could swim exceedingly well and also run, climb and fly a little, had the highest average and was valedictorian.

The prairie dog stayed out of school and fought the tax levy because the administration would not add digging and burrowing to the curriculum. The apprentices their children to a badger and later joined in the groundhogs and gophers to start a successful private school.

**Does this fable have a moral?**