

Liz Myers  
Conflict Resolution  
December 12, 2008  
Final Exam

Name of Book: Seven Blind Mice

Author: Ed Young

What age group would you use this for?: 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>

- 1.) There are seven blind mice that always go to the same pond for water. One day, the mice discover something else that is at the pond that has never been there before. Each mouse decides to go to the pond and try to figure out what the creature is. Every mouse looks at a different part of the creature and concludes that it is something different. The mice start to argue about who is right and who is wrong. The first six mice are the ones that are doing this. The seventh mouse decides to go see what the creature is after all the other mice begin to argue. The problem is that the mice only looked at one part of the creature and not the whole thing.
- 2.) Six of the mice are arguing about what this creature is. Their conflict resolution style is competition. They all want to be right and so they argue about it. The consequence of this style is that nothing ever gets resolved if everybody wants to be right. The mice continue to argue because it is a competition of who is right and they all want to win the competition.
- 3.) The conflict started when one day the seven mice were surprised to find something strange by their pond. They all ran home wondering what the strange creature was. Six of the mice went back to the pond one by one and looked at the creature to figure out what it was. All the mice looked at different parts of the creature. Nobody believed anybody else but their idea.
- 4.) Each mouse wants to be correct about what the creature is. All of them are curious about what the creature is but they do not work together to figure it out.
- 5.) I would help them figure out the conflict the same way they resolved it in the story. Another party was brought into the conflict to help resolve the issue. The seventh mouse went back to the pond after they all started arguing. He examined the whole creature rather than just parts of it. He then concluded that the creature was an elephant. He took the other mice back to the pond to look at it again. Another way to solve this conflict would be working together to figure out the problem. Each mouse has part of the solution but none of them were listening to each other to help resolve the conflict. If the mice would have listened to what each mouse saw at the pond, they could have put it all together and figured out what the creature was. I would help the

mice solve this conflict first by having them listen to each other. If that did not help, I would bring in the third party to examine the situation.

- 6.) I would have handled it differently than what the mice did. When I find myself in a conflict, I always listen to the other person's point of view. I have come to realize that that can solve many conflicts before they become out of hand. A lot of conflicts are a result in lack of communication between the two parties. If I find myself as a third party being brought into a situation, I encourage the other people to listen to each other. Imagine yourself in the other person's shoes. How is their thinking different than yours? Communication is important in solving conflicts.