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Problem Solving Assignment

A Cat, a Parrot, and a Bag of Seed

So this man has no way of getting his cat, parrot and bag of seed across the riverbank because he can only fit one of them in the boat. He knows that if he leaves the cat with the parrot, the parrot will be eaten. If he leaves the parrot with the seeds, the seeds will be eaten. He has to make the right decision on what to bring first. If he doesn’t bring them in the correct order, one of the items will not be coming to the other side of the riverbank with him. Also, once he crosses, he has to make sure the items to eat the other while he goes back across. The overall goal is to get all 3 of the items to the opposite side of the river bank and that they are all still there once they have all crossed.

The constraints are that he cannot bring all 3 items at one time. That means that he cannot take just one trip to the other side, he has to go 3 times. Another constraint is that each time, he has to leave each item with another item that won’t eat the other item. The sub- goal is that the cat doesn’t eat the parrot, and the parrot doesn’t eat the food.

 A possible solution is to feed the bird before he begins to bring the items. That way, he can bring the cat first, then the bag of seed and then the parrot. While he is gone, the parrot will not eat the seed because it is full. Once on the other side, the cat will not eat the seed while he goes to get the parrot. Once the parrot gets there, he will not have to go back, so the parrot will be safe from getting eaten.

I believe that feeding the parrot and then bring the cat, then the seed and then the parrot is the best solution, that way everything will be safe. With my first test, I thought that A possible solution would be, so that none of the wrong items are left alone together, was to bring the parrot first, that way just the cat and the seed is alone. The cat will not want the seed. The issue is what to bring next because either the parrot will eat the seed while he goes to get the cat, or the cat will eat the parrot.

Another option I thought of  was to bring the cat and on the second trip, bring the parrot and seed by having the parrot sit on his shoulder. But, I know he is only supposed to bring one at a time, but I thought he could try to bring both. One other test was maybe the parrot can fly over while he brings the seed over.

I figured out that the best solution was to have the bird eat some of the seeds, the man bring the cat across, then the bag of seed and finally the parrot. Since the parrot has eaten, he won’t eat the whole bag of seed. If the cat and parrot have no time alone together, the parrot will not be eaten.