The Oxen and the Lion

DIRECTIONS: Read the story. Answer the questions.

Four oxen lived together on a farm. Every afternoon, after a hard
day’s work, the farmer would turn the oxen out into a field to rest and
graze. But this was not always a peaceful end to the day for the oxen,
for a lion liked to prowl about the field in the evenings, and often tried
to attack them. But time after time the oxen thwarted the lion.
Whenever they saw him approach, they would stand with their tails
together, facing outward, so that no matter which side the lion tried to
approach from he was met with their sharp horns.

This went on for quite a while, and the oxen began to feel that the
lion would never successfully attack them. And so he didn’t. But one
day two of the oxen began to argue. The third oxen took one side, and
the fourth took the other, and soon all four were at odds with one
another. Frustrated and angry, they separated, retreating to different
corners of the vast field to complain to the dandelions and nurture
their grievances.

The lion, who had never given up hope, saw his
chance. He attacked the oxen one by one, and soon
had made a meal out of all four of them.

RETOLD AESOP’S FABLE
1. Why was being turned out into the field not a peaceful end to the day for the oxen?

2. How did the oxen “thwart” the lion? If you do not know the meaning of the word “thwart”, use a dictionary to help you.

3. Why did the oxen separate?

4. What is the moral of this story?
   
   A. Birds of a feather flock together.
   
   B. United we stand, divided we fall.
   
   C. You win some, you lose some.
   
   D. Better safe than sorry.