

Dad and the Cat and the Tree

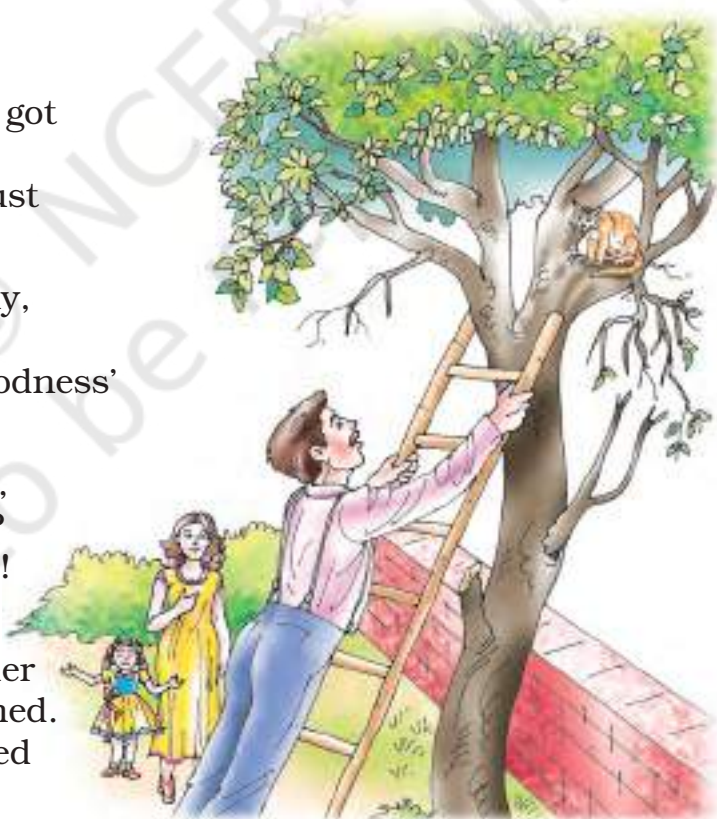
Have you ever seen a cat climbing a tree? Sometimes a cat may climb too high and get stuck in the tree. The poor thing can't come down without help. How would you help it? Surely, not like Dad in the poem. Is Dad a good climber? What were his plans? Read the poem to find out.

This morning a cat got
Stuck in our tree.
Dad said, "Right, just
Leave it to me."

The tree was wobbly,
The tree was tall.
Mum said, "For goodness'
Sake don't fall!"

"Fall?" scoffed Dad,
"A climber like me?
Child's play, this is!
You wait and see."

He got out the ladder
From the garden shed.
It slipped. He landed
In the flower bed.





“Never mind,” said Dad,
Brushing the dirt
Off his hair and his face
And his trousers and his shirt,

“We’ll try Plan B. Stand
Out of the way!”
Mum said, “Don’t fall
Again, O.K.?”

“Fall again?” said Dad.
“Funny joke!”
Then he swung himself up
On a branch. It broke.

Dad landed wallop
Back on the deck.
Mum said, “Stop it,
You’ll break your neck!”

“Rubbish!” said Dad.
“Now we’ll try Plan C.
Easy as winking
To a climber like me!”





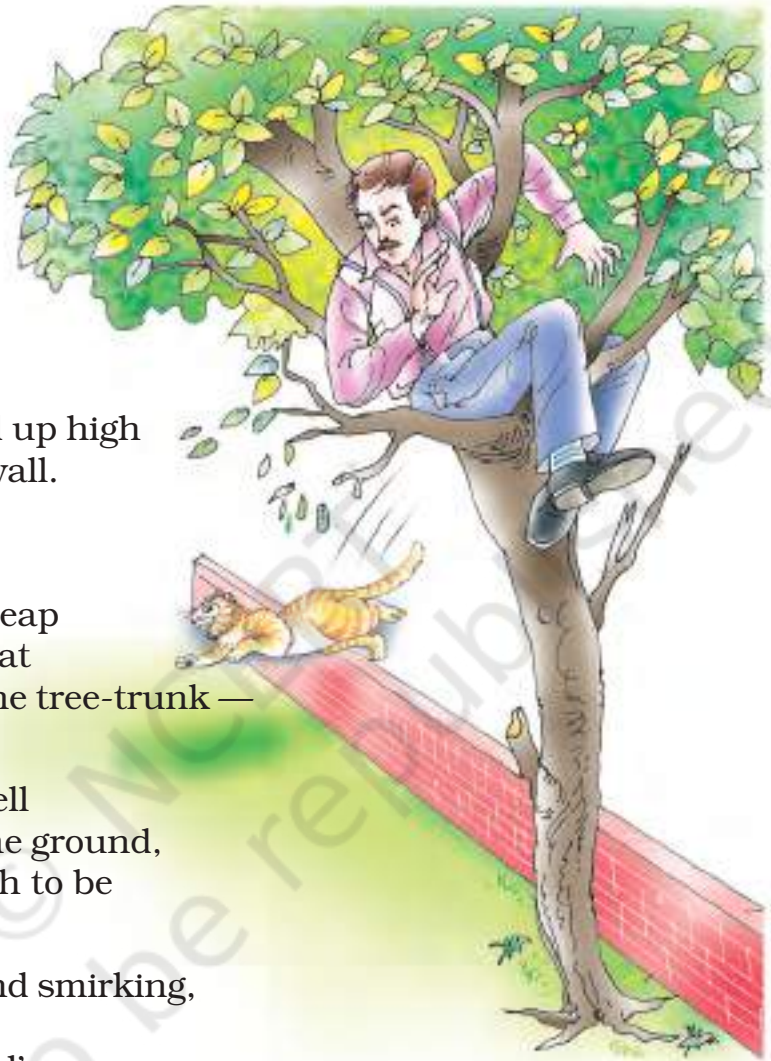
Then he climbed up high
On the garden wall.
Guess what?
He didn't fall!

He gave a great leap
And he landed flat
In the crook of the tree-trunk —
Right on the cat!

The cat gave a yell
And sprang to the ground,
Pleased as Punch to be
Safe and sound.

So it's smiling and smirking,
Smug as can be,
But poor old Dad's
Still

Stuck
Up
The
Tree!



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GLOSSARY

wobbly: unsteady

for goodness' sake: an exclamation expressing protest

scoffed: laughed mockingly

child's play: very easy to do

landed wallop: fell heavily

pleased as Punch: very pleased

safe and sound: unhurt

Working with the Poem

1. Why was Dad sure he wouldn't fall?
2. Which phrase in the poem expresses Dad's self-confidence best?
3. Describe Plan A and its consequences.
4. Plan C was a success. What went wrong then?
5. The cat was very happy to be on the ground. Pick out the phrase used to express this idea.
6. Describe the Cat and Dad situation in the beginning and at the end of the poem.
7. Why and when did Dad say each of the following?
 - (i) Fall?
 - (ii) Never mind
 - (iii) Funny joke
 - (iv) Rubbish
8. Do you find the poem humorous? Read aloud lines which make you laugh.

