



## DAD AND THE CAT AND THE TREE

by Kit Wright

### SUMMARY

The poem 'Dad and the Cat and the Tree' written by Kit Wright, depicts a hilarious series of events where the rescuer became the victim at the end. The incident happened one morning when a cat was seen trapped on a tall and unstable tree. The poem tells the story of the various rescue plans of the father, the several warnings of the mother and the failures and success of the mission.

### Stanzawise Explanation

#### Stanza 1

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

**Explanation:** The poem opens by describing an incident that happened one morning. A cat had gotten stuck on a tree. So, the speaker's father asked the others to leave the task of rescuing the cat to him.

#### Stanza 2

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

**Explanation:** The tree, on which the cat was stuck, was tall and unsteady. The mother of the speaker got worried and told her husband to not fall off the tree when he was trying to climb it.

### Stanza 3

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

**Explanation:** The speaker's father laughed off his wife's warnings. He told her that he's a great climber and climbing a tree was an easy task for him. He proceeded to tell her to wait and see how he would easily do so.

### Stanza 4

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

**Explanation:** The father went on with his plan and brought a ladder from the garden shed. While he using the ladder to go up the tree, the ladder slipped and the father fell right in the flower bed. Thus, his first plan to climb the tree failed.

### Stanza 5

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

**Explanation:** The father said to ignore what happened and removed the dirt from his hair, face, and clothes. He was not sad by the failure of his plan.

### Stanza 6

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

**Explanation:** The speaker's father came up with another plan which he referred to as Plan B. He was ready to carry on his plan when his wife told him not to fall off the tree again.

### Stanza 7

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

**Explanation:** The father ignored his wife's concern again and called her statement a joke. He added that he wouldn't fall again. However, the moment he swung himself up on a branch of the tree, the branch broke.

### Stanza 8

Dad landed wallop  
Back on the deck.  
Mum said, "Stop it,  
You'll break your neck!"

**Explanation:** The speaker's father fell heavily on the ground when the branch broke. The mother was scared and shocked to see the scene and asked the father to stop trying to save the cat. She was afraid that he might end up hurting himself from falling again and again.

### Stanza 9

"Rubbish!" said Dad.  
"Now we'll try Plan C.  
Easy as winking  
To a climber like me!"

**Explanation:** The speaker's father continued to disregard his wife's worries. He told her that she was talking nonsense as climbing a tree was easy to a good climber like him. He then ignored his wife's warnings and carried on Plan C of the rescue mission.

### Stanza 10

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

**Explanation:** The speaker's father carried on with his Plan C by climbing up the garden wall. Surprisingly, he didn't fall off and succeeded on his third try.

### Stanza 11

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

**Explanation:** When he gave a large jump, he landed at the bent portion of the tree trunk. It was exactly where the cat was. Thus, he landed right on top of the cat.

### Stanza 12

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

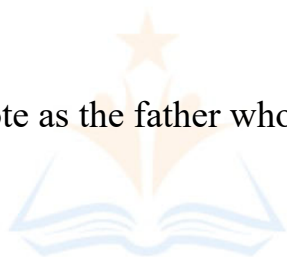
**Explanation:** The cat was surprised and cried out when the father fell right on top of it. It jumped down from the tree and landed straight on the ground without getting any injuries. The cat looked pleased as it was now on the ground safe and sound.

### Stanza 13

So it's smiling and smirking,  
Smug as can be,  
But poor old Dad's  
Still Stuck Up The Tree!

**Explanation:** The cat was feeling very satisfied and happy as it was no longer stuck on the tree. Unfortunately, the father was now the one who was stuck on the tree instead of the cat.

The poem ends in a humorous note as the father who wanted to rescue the cat got stuck in its position instead.



## Word – Meaning

| Word             | Meaning               |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Wobbly           | unsteady              |
| Scoffed          | ridicule, scorn       |
| Landed wallop    | a heavy blow          |
| Rubbish          | nonsense, garbage     |
| Winking          | to blink with one eye |
| Great leap       | to make a large jump  |
| Yell             | to shout              |
| Sprang           | to jump or release    |
| Pleased as punch | very pleased          |
| Smirking         | often crooked smile   |
| Smug             | too-satisfied         |