

... Bad Cat! ...

Dan is a man.

He has a bag in the van.

Dan has yams and a ham in the bag.

Tab is Dan's cat.

Tab ran to the bag.

Tab bats at the bag.

The ham is not in the bag.

Tab has the ham.

Dan is not happy!

Tab, the ham is not your ham.

Tab is not happy!

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**Follow-up questions.**

Who is Tab?

What is Dan's problem?

How does Tab feel at the end of the story? Why?

## ... In the Mud ...

Kim and Jim dug a pit.

Mom said, "You cannot sit in a pit of mud."

But....they did sit in it!

Mom looks at Jim and Kim. She is mad!

She said, "You are not pigs."

Mom put Jim and Kim in a tub of suds.

She gives the kids a rag.

No mud is on Jim and Kim.

The mud is in the tub.

Happy twins! Happy Mom!

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**Follow up questions:**

What did Jim and Kim do?

What was their problem?

How did they solve the problem?

## • • • At the Farm • • •

The Chans are going to a farm. Mom, Dan, Ben, and Jen packed backpacks and pitched them into the van. It will be so much fun being on a farm. The van goes and goes till it gets to the farm.

Jack is the man at the farm. The Chans met him at the barn at sunup. The ducks were quacking and the chicks were pecking! They had to fetch a bunch of eggs from the hens' nests and put them in a box. Then Ben and Jen were going into the pigpen to give the pigs bits of corn. Being in the mud was such fun, but they were a mess. Mud on the pigs and mud on the kids! Jack said, "We can pick corn and have it for lunch. Yum!" But Mom said, "You cannot have lunch yet. You have to have a bath."

The kids said, "Do we have to?"

"Yes, you do!" said Mom.

At sunset, Jack and the Chans sat on logs and munched on corn on the cob. They had punch and chips. The Chans had such fun at the farm. They had to get back into the van at sunup. They will miss Jack and his farm very much.

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What are 3 things the kids did on the farm?

What did Mom make them do before lunch? Why?

Do you think the Chans will go back to the farm? Why or why not?

**D**an didn't have to go to school. He got up at sunup to go fishing. He was singing as he rushed to the dock, but he forgot his fishing rod. Dan went back to get it, but he fell and got a bad gash on his shin. Mom put a pad on it and said, "Don't rush. Things won't go well if you do."

But... Dan did rush back to the dock. He hung a bug on the end of his fishing rod and sat with his rod in his hand. All of a sudden, a school of fish went by. Dan rushed to get his net to catch them. The dock was wet so he fell and got a rip in his pants. "Mom won't be happy with me so I won't tell her," he said to himself.

Next, Dan got his picnic basket. He had it in his hand, but a fish that was ten inches long was by the dock. As he went to get his fishing rod, the picnic basket fell into the pond. Dan said, "I give up! I quit!" He packed up his things and went back to Mom. "That was a lesson for me. Bad things do happen if you rush!"

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Give the story a title.

What were 3 things that went wrong for Dan?

What lesson did Dan learn?

The kids from Chester School went on a picnic by the pond. They sat on benches and had lunch. After Dan had his lunch, he wanted to go to the pond, but he didn't ask if it was OK. He went by himself. He jumped up on a rock next to the pond. He wanted to look at the fish on the bottom. All of a sudden, an insect landed on Dan's hand and bit him. He was so shocked that he fell into the pond.

Dan was yelling, "Help! Who will help me? I can't get up by myself." Quicker than a wink, Jim ran to the pond and lifted Dan back up on the rock. Dan said, "I am so upset. My pants, vest, and socks are all wet. I must have things to put on that aren't wet."

Jim said, "I happen to have pants in my backpack. I can lend them to you." Jill and Seth pitched in and got socks and a jacket for Dan. After that, Dan felt much better.

Mrs. King said, "Dan, let that be a lesson to you. Don't go to the pond by yourself. Kids, thank you for being such good helpers."

Back at school, the kids said, "Dan, you had very bad luck today." But Dan said, "No I didn't. I think I had very good luck today!"

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Students give story a title.

What was Dan's problem?

How did he solve the problem?

Why did Dan think he had good luck?

**T**his morning, the man on TV said there was going to be a storm. He said that gusts of wind were to be expected. All of the kids were off from school.

My dad pitched in to help my mom. They had to get all the things off the back porch so they didn't go flying in the wind. They put the pots of plants in the corner of the shed. Mom ran to the market to get some snacks for us if the storm lasted very long.

It started to get very dark at one o'clock. The wind gusts picked up. Then there was a sudden clap of thunder and the lamps went off. My sister jumped up and ran under her bed. I wasn't much better. I slumped in a corner and put a blanket on top of me. My sister and I were such wimps! Mom handed us something to snack on so we weren't so upset. The popcorn helped us not think about the storm so much.

After the storm ended, we went to look at the yard. Mom's garden was a mess. All of the plants were bent over, and the buds were off of the stems. The bad part was that something had fallen on Dad's sports car and had smashed the glass. Dad was glad no one was harmed by the splinters of glass, but he was upset that his car was a mess.

He looked up and was happy to see that the tall rod for his flag was still standing in the yard, and the flag was torn but flapping in the wind.

The storm was short, but I must admit that it felt like the longest one! I will not forget that March storm!

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What did the weatherman predict? What might cause damage?

Were the kids frightened? How do you know?

What did the family discover when they went outside?

**B**rad and Frank were best friends. They went on a rafting trip that they will never forget. As they were dragging the raft to the river, it hit something sharp. The raft went limp. Brad patched the rip with a plastic strip as Frank went to get a pump from his backpack.

After the raft was fixed, Brad and Frank put on vests and started drifting in the river. The wind picked up and they began to go faster. Then the sky got darker and the wind got even stronger. They were being splashed so it was hard to see where they were going. Frank was trying to get the raft back on track, but had no luck. Brad started to cry.

They were trying to cross the river to get back to land. They were drenched! All of a sudden, the raft crashed into a massive rock. Pop! The raft was sinking!

Frank had to think fast. He jumped onto the rock, but Brad slipped and twisted his leg. “Quick, grab my hand,” Frank yelled to Brad as he helped him onto the rock.

Brad was still crying, “We are stranded on this rock. What will happen to us?” The boys were shivering and felt helpless.

Frank had a plan. “I am a strong swimmer. I will go get help. Trust me.”

Brad protested, “I don’t think that is a smart thing to do. The river is going very fast. We have to sit on this rock until someone passes by.”

Just then, a small skiff passed by. Brad yelled at the top of his lungs, “HELP!” The skipper helped them onto the skiff, handed them blankets, and got them back to land. Brad and Frank were so thankful that the trip ended well.

The next spring they went camping... but on land!!!

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What was Frank and Brad’s problem?

Why were they unlucky? Why were they lucky?

What lesson did they learn? (Accept any logical responses)

On a hot day in June, Mike dared Steven to go on a twelve mile bike ride. “Are you sure you can make it?” Mike asked him.

Steven wasn’t sure he could, but he wouldn’t admit it. He was willing to give it a shot. They packed jugs of lemonade and snacks because it was going to be a long ride. They put on their bike helmets and off they went.

As they hit the fifth mile, they had to stop for a rest. While they were sitting on a rock having a drink, Mike yelled, “Yikes! I think I see a snake!”

“Where? Are you sure?” Steven hollered as he grabbed onto Mike. “I hate snakes!”

“It was striped and it was slithering in the grass over there.” The boys looked, but they didn’t see it. They were too scared to sit in the grass. They hopped back on their bikes and kept riding to get far from the snake.

Later, they stopped by a cave. This time Steven dared Mike. “I dare you to go inside the cave.”

“Not me! I am too scared of vampires!” said Mike.

“There is no such thing as a vampire. There could be a bat, but not a vampire! So... will you go in?”

“No! It would be a mistake for us to go into that cave. Stop being so careless. Let’s be on the safe side and just finish this ride and get home.”

Just then, Mike stopped and said, “What’s that hiss?”

“Stop trying to scare me,” whimpered Steven. “Oh, there it is. The hiss! Let’s get going fast!” Then they looked at Mike’s bike and could see that the hissing was coming from Mike’s tire. It was flat!

This was a problem, but they couldn’t help but be happy!

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What did the boys dare each other to do?

Why did Steven think it would be a mistake to go into the cave?

Why were the boys happy that Mike’s bike had a flat tire?

It was the last week of the school year. The class was planning a trip to the beach. The kids were in teams making plans. One team made a list of things to eat to be sure they had plenty to last the entire day. A second team was trying to agree on what they would do when they got to the seashore. The last team had to think of all the things they would need while they were there. They kept having meetings to plan for the big event.

At last, the day of the trip came. The kids piled into the school bus and off they went. As soon as they got to the beach, they unloaded their things and ran into the sea. The waves were high that day, but that only made them more delighted to be there. Only one student seemed afraid, and he wasn't eager to go in. Two classmates grabbed his hands to make him feel secure, so he was willing to give it a try. After diving into the biggest wave, he wanted to do it again and again.

After they had been there a while, some of the kids played frisbee. Some walked along the shore collecting seashells. One of the kids came upon a crab that had flipped over and couldn't get itself back on its legs. It was helpless. The kid flipped the crab so that it could walk back into the sea where it belonged. Someone else came upon a seagull that had its beak stuck in a plastic bag. "Oh no! We must do something. It will not live if we don't get this off!" yelled the kid. He and his buddy freed the gull from the plastic bag.

Later in the day, the kids felt like they could eat a horse. They had packed loads of things to eat and they consumed it all. They were stunned when the adults said it was time to leave. The timing was good because the wind was picking up and things were starting to blow. Just as they got on the bus, the sky opened up and it started to rain cats and dogs! What an amazing way to end the school year!

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How did the kids prepare for the trip?

How did they help some sea creatures? What lesson did that teach them?

Give the story a title.