



24-Rat On His Own Compound Words

After Rat got Dan put in jail and Dan put the spider in Rat's bed, Dan came up to Rat.

“Rat,” he said, “I think you should go rent your own place to live for a while.”

“Gee, Dan. Why?” asked Rat.

“Well,” said Dan, “you are five now, and if you want to live to be six, I think you should leave for some time.”

“Where will I go live?” asked Rat. “In an alley like a tomcat? Or way up in the hills like a bobcat?”

“No,” said Dan. “You can rent a place up the street a way. FAR away. Then, if I want to talk to you I can send a letter, and you can write back to me.”

“Hmmm...” said Rat. “This may not be so bad. I can sunbathe out back, play baseball and softball, drive fast car after sunset, and go fishing for catfish. Plus, there will be no Dan telling me to clean up. Yes, life will be fun now!”

Rat did go rent a place of his own. Dan missed Rat The Cat, so Dan sent letter after letter, but no mail came back to him. Each day the mail came, but there was never a letter

from Rat.

This made Dan upset. Dan missed Rat The Cat so much that he went to see Rat.

When Rat came to the door he was in a bathrobe. A dirty bathrobe.

“Hi Rat,” said Dan. “Why are you in a bathrobe?”

“Uh, I have no clean clothes to put on,” Rat answered.

“Well, may I come inside?” Dan asked.

“Uh, sure,” said Rat. Rat let Dan in, and as they went in Dan could tell that Rat seemed stiff when he walked.

When Dan got inside he screamed.

“Rat! It's a pigpen in here! Look – there's a big cockroach in the cupboard and a big bedbug jumping on the bed! And the dishes,

Rat! Don't you clean them?”

“I get dishpan hands,” said Rat.

“And why are you walking so stiff?” Dan asked.

“Well, I got whiplash from driving too fast,” said Rat. Rat seemed sad.

“Oh, Dan!” Rat cried. “Please take me back! At first it was fun living in a pigpen, but now I hate it. The bugs want me to get out and leave the place to them. Plus, when the landlord sees this pigpen she'll clobber me!”

“So you want to come back home?” Dan asked.

“Yes. And from now on I will be a nice, clean cat. I will clean when you tell me to clean, and I will be safe and kind!”

“Ha!” said Dan.

Then Dan said, “Okay, Rat. I better take you

back home, or the next time I go see you I may be going to a gravestone. But first, you have to clean up this pigpen.”

Dan went and got a broom, a dustpan, a mop, and rags.

“Start cleaning, Rat,” he said. “And while you are cleaning I'll go take care of the bugs.” But Dan did not see the biggest bug of all. It was the biggest bug ever! Look out Dan!

Vocabulary

bobcat	tomcat	gravestone
within	inside	landlord
lipstick	bathrobe	pigpen
softball	bedbug	suntan
sunrise	catnip	sunfish
cockroach	catfish	baseball
sunset	whiplash	caveman

Comprehension

At the beginning of the story, is Dan happy with Rat?

How old is Rat in this story?

Why does Dan say "Ha!" after Rat says he will be good?

Weird Words

broom	clothes	spider	alley
she'll	own	could	dishes
leave	after	would	out
clobber	nothing	should	door
don't	first	some	answered

Dictation

Rat has a sunset on his bathrobe.

Rat can play softball or baseball.

The landlord gave Rat a gravestone.

The bobcat gave Rat a letter.

The bedbug ate the cockroach.

The bobcat is bigger than the tomcat.

The caveman was inside the cave.

Did Rat eat the catnip?

Did the caveman have milk?

Can you clean the pigpen?

Rat got whiplash.

Is that a catfish or a sunfish?

Can I get a red bathrobe?

The pig has lipstick.

The cockroach was inside the bell.

The caveman got a suntan.

Is it sunrise or sunset?

Stay within the law Rat!

The tomcat ate the catfish.