



19-Storm Lake

dr, tr, sm, sn, sw, or, er, qu

One fine day Dan said to Rat The Cat, "Let's drive to the train, then ride the train up north to Stork Lake. I know of an old stone fort at Stork Lake. We can trap a goat, snag a fish, and camp in the old stone fort.

"That will be swell, Dan," said Rat.

"Real nice!"

"Rat," said Dan, "when we go to Stork Lake you cannot just play. You must sweep the fort, take out the trash, and wipe up the grime and the smears."

"True," said Rat. "Too true. I will do as I am told."

"Ha!" said Dan.

Dan and Rat drove to the train, then rode the train north to Stork Lake. On the train ride Rat saw a lot of corn, five goats, a herd of cows, and a small store by a lake.

As they rode Dan told Rat, "Now, I have one rule you must do to be safe. You must trust me, Rat The Cat, for

Stork Lake is a mean lake, a lake where a cat can be torn to bits. Do you hear me Rat?"

"Huh?" said Rat.

"Rat, I just told you that to be safe you must trust me and do what I say. Okay?"

"True, Dan," said Rat. "So true. I will do as I am told."

"Ha!" said Dan.

When they got to Stork Lake, Dan and Rat set up camp in the old stone fort.

"We can name the old stone fort *CAMP RAT*," said Rat.

"Yes," said Dan, "but now you must sweep and wipe the camp." So Rat did sweep and wipe the fort.

"Now can we go trap a goat?" asked Rat.

"Yes, Rat," said Dan. "But you must trust me and do what I say. An old goat is wise. You must be wise too. Do not go near the trap or the goat will hear you and get angry. Really angry, Rat."

"I will do as I am told," said Rat.

"Ha!" said Dan.

Dan and Rat set up a cage to trap a goat. The trap had cheese for bait.

"Cheese?" said Rat. "Will we catch a goat or a big rat? HA!"

"Shhh!" said Dan. "Quiet! A goat can hear you from a mile, and smell you too."

"Yes," said Rat. "The goat may smell me, but at least I do not smell like a goat! HA!"

"SHHHH!" said Dan. "Quiet! Now we must hide here while we wait. And Rat, DO NOT jump up and run to the cage when the goat is in it. PLEASE wait. I will swing the gate down, THEN you can go see the goat. If you do not wait it will be bad, Rat. Stork Lake is a mean lake, a lake where a cat can be torn to bits."

"I will do as I am told," said Rat.

"Ha!" said Dan.

A goat came to the cage and went in to eat the cheese.

"HA!" said Rat. Rat jumped up and ran to the cage.

"WAIT!" yelled Dan, but it was too late. The goat saw Rat The Cat and ran at Rat.

"AAAaaahhh!" yelled Rat. *POW!!!*

The goat hit Rat in the chest with its left horn. The hit was such a smash that it sent Rat all the way back to Camp Rat at the old stone fort. Rat came down on a torch.

"OW! OWOWOWWOWOWWWW!!!" screamed Rat.

"I told you," said Dan, "Stork lake is a mean lake, a lake where a cat can be torn to bits. You must trust me and do as

I say."

"Yes," said Rat. "From now on I will do as I am told."

"Ha!" said Dan.

Dan made Rat sweep and wipe, then came and told Rat to quit.

"Now we will go fish," Dan said. "We will take a boat out on the lake, but you must trust me. If you snag your line, do not tug and tug. If you do, you may not like what you catch."

"Yes," said Rat. "I will do as I am told."

"Ha!" said Dan.

Dan and Rat went out on Stork Lake in a boat, and Rat cast in his line. Soon Rat had a snag.

"I have a snag," said Rat, and Rat gave his line a tug, tug, tug.

"No!" yelled Dan, but Dan was too late. Up came a huge iceberg, as big as a ship, to smash their small boat. Now Dan and Rat had to swim for shore.

As they swam Rat said, "Quit Dan! Do not bite my feet."

"I did not bite your feet Rat," said Dan. "I can't bite your feet and swim at the same time!"

"Then what did bite me?" Rat asked. Dan and Rat peeked back. There was a huge fish with teeth as big as stones!

"Aaaahh!" Rat and Dan screamed. They swam so fast they were on top of

the water, and the big fish was in back of them all the way.

When they got back to shore they ran to Camp Rat at the old stone fort.

"You see!" said Dan. "Stork Lake is a mean lake, a lake where a cat, AND A PERSON, can be torn to bits! You did not trust me, Rat. Now I am beat and I smell like fish!"

"Now," said Rat, "I will do as I am told."

"Ha!" said Dan.

Rat and Dan went into the old stone fort.

"I am too beat to take a bath," said Dan.

"Me too," said Rat.

"I am too beat to eat," said Dan.

"Me too," said Rat.

"I need to go to bed and sleep," said Dan.

"Me too," said Rat.

So Dan and Rat went to bed, and Rat fell fast asleep. But Dan did not sleep at all. Why?

Man, can that cat SNORE!

Vocabulary

dr

drip drag drink drive
drug drank dream drove

tr

trust trap tray try
true trash train trip

sm

small smell smile smash smear

sw

swim swing sweet
swell swipe sweep

qu

quit quiet quite queer queen

or

or short porch north
fort sport torch short
port storm

er

herd fern term perch jerk verse

Dictation

In my dream I drove on a drag strip.
Can I trust you to take the trash off
the train?

The smell made me make a small smile.
If you snag, snip the line or it will snap.
It is a swell day to sweep, swing, and
swim.

Keep quite quiet or the queen will quit
her tale.

The fort is north of the porch.

The bug had a perch on a fern.

Did you take the train on your trip?

Be quiet when you sneak up on the trap.

Did the storm smash the small boat on
the shore?

Weird Words

asleep	their	here	its
can't	iceberg	cheese	screamed
peeked	jumped	let's	heard
water	down	cannot	they