



15-Chicken Thugs

ch, tch, ng

Dan and Rat The Cat's phone rang.

"Help Rat!" said the caller. "This is Chicken Fred. At nine, as I sat on a bench, a bunch of chicken thugs came up to me. They were a bad chicken gang, Rat. The big chicken thug took my lunch! Rat, I had no lunch to eat!"

"Those chicken thugs did a bad thing," said Rat.

"Rat, I am not rich," said Fred, "but if you can get my lunch back I will sing you a song."

"No," said Rat. "You sing like a sick goat, Fred. Sick. If you sing then *I* will be sick. But I will get your lunch back. I was a boxer when I was five, and I was a champ. I can punch, duck, jab, and bob. I'll get your lunch back."

Rat went up to the chicken gang.

"Did you take Chicken Fred's lunch?"

Rat asked the big chicken thug.

"Yeah, so what?" said the big chicken

thug.

"Well," said Rat, "now I am here to take back Chicken Fred's lunch!"

The big chicken thug put the tip of his wing deep into Rat The Cat's chest.

"And *who* are you?" the big chicken thug asked Rat.

"I am Rat The Cat!" said Rat. "I can box! I am a champ!"

"A chump?" asked the big chicken thug.

"No, a champ!" said Rat.

"A chimp?"

"No, a Champ!"

"A chick?"

"NO, a CHAMP!"

"At what?" asked the big chicken thug.

"I said I BOX!" Rat was angry.

"You box?"

"YEAH! Want to see?"

So Rat did box for the chicken gang. Rat hit the air for a while, then did a big kick in the air.

"See!" said Rat. "Now give me back Fred's lunch!" But the big chicken thug did not give Rat the lunch.

"I can box too," the big chicken thug told Rat. "Watch me!"

But the big chicken thug did not punch the air as Rat had—the big chicken thug hit Rat The Cat on the chin! Rat fell on his back.

Rat got up. His chin was in pain.

"I DID box when I was five!" Rat said.

"But now I can RUN!" Rat ran and the gang of chicken thugs gave chase.

"I will hide!" said Rat. "If I do not hide the chicken thugs will catch me and beat me up!" So Rat hid in a ditch. The gang of chicken thugs ran past.

"Now I can call for help!" Rat said.

"Hmmm... Should I call a witch to make the chicken thug a toad? No. Should I call a chum of mine to beat up the big chicken thug? No. No chum of mine is a match for that big chicken thug. I know! I should call my mom!"

Rat did call his mom.

"Mom, can you help me?" Rat asked. "A bunch of chicken thugs stole Chicken Fred's lunch. I went to get it back, but I was no match for the thugs. It was pure luck that I hid and they ran past."

"Well..." said Rat's mom. "I am much more weak than you, but I am much more wise too. I am no match for a gang of chicken thugs. So I will not go get Chicken Fred's lunch back. But I WILL call for help!" So Rat's mom gave the police a call.

"It's a cop!" yelled the big chicken thug. "RUN!" The gang of chicken thugs ran, but the police officer got them all.

"Thanks, Rat," said the police officer. "We wanted to catch these chickens, but we had no luck. Then came your call."

"It was not my call," said Rat. "It was my dear old mom."

"Well, tell your mom I said *Thanks*," said the officer.

"Oh," Rat said to the police officer. "Did I tell you that I can box? Check me out!"

Rat hit the air five or six times, then did a big kick. Rat sure did think he was one meat cat!

"RRRRRR!!" Rat growled at the gang in chains. Then Rat let them see his fangs.

"Boo!" said the big chicken thug.

"Aaaahhh!" screamed Rat as he got up on top of the police officer to be safe. Rat held on to the officer's ears.

Big, bad Rat is not mean at all, but we don't care. It is much more fun to be nice.

Vocabulary

ch digraph

chill	chess	such	bench
chick	chase	lunch	champ
chin	rich	bunch	chimp
check	much	punch	chump

tch digraph

itch	pitch	match	latch
witch	ditch	catch	hatch

ng digraph

sing	sang	hang	hung
ring	rang	bang	song
king	gang	rung	gong
wing			long

Weird Words

took	boxed	dream
answered	boxer	yelled
policeman	screamed	asked
teacher	ever	wanted

Dictation

Pass me the check for the dish of fish.
We will sing the same song she sang.
A witch was on the bench by the path.
The whale did chase the long ship.
The thug gave Rat a punch on the chin.
Bang the gong for the king at nine.
Rat ate lunch on the bench.
Check the wheel to see why we went
into the ditch.
The bug bite made Rat itch.
This king is no match for that king.
Can Rat catch the white whale?
Where can Jane pitch a ball?

Comprehension

In this story, is Rat older than five?
Is Fred a good singer?
Is Rat mean?

Three "by" Three

by = next to bye = good-bye!
buy = purchase