



## **33-The Ballet Performance** **long i sound, -ance ending**

One fine day Dan got a card in the mail. The card was from an old friend, Victor Victor. Dan read the card to Rat The Cat.

“Dear Dan and Rat;  
You are invited to a ballet performance Monday night. The ballet will be 'Duck Lake,' and Victor Victor will make an appearance. Will you be in attendance?”

“Wow, Rat!” said Dan. “A ballet performance Monday night! And it's Victor Victor in Duck Lake! Rat, that's the best ballet ever!”

“Whoop-dee-doo,” said Rat. “A bunch of guys in tights hopping around all night. I'd rather fly on a night flight with a blind pilot than sit and watch Victor Victor try to be a duck.”

“Now you are showing your ignorance, Rat,” said Dan. “Ballet is an art form. Now I might not take you with me.”

“Dan,” said Rat, “I don't think I will die if I miss the ballet performance. The only way I would want to go is if I could ride my bicycle up on the stage and throw a pie at Victor Victor. Now THAT would be a sight to see!”

“Rat,” said Dan, “you don't understand the importance of trying different types of art. You

have an abundance of bad things to say about ballet, but you have never even seen a performance. If you can't say anything that does not show your ignorance, you should remain silent. I have no tolerance for your ignorance.”

“Dan, you are right,” said Rat. “I am behaving like a child. I will go to the ballet and try it. But if I find I don't like it, I will never go again.”

“Good, Rat!” said Dan. “As I always say, 'Try it and you might like it!' Plus, Duck Lake is the one ballet I would take anyone to try. I bet it will make you cry.”

“When pigs fly, Dan,” said Rat. “But at least I will get to try my new tie.”

Dan and Rat went to see Duck Lake. When

Victor Victor came on stage he jumped as high and as far as Rat had ever seen a man jump.

“Wow!” said Rat. “That guy can fly!” Then Victor Victor spun, lifted another dancer high over his head, and then danced across the stage while carrying the other dancer.

“Man!” said Rat. “That guy in tights seems as light as a feather and as strong as an ox!” The ballet was so neat that Rat forgot his cares as he watched the dancing. It was a swell night.

For the final dance number of the show, the whole ballet center was silent as the performance reached its peak. All of the dancers were on stage and they did a dance of flight as if they were ducks starting to fly. As the dancers danced, it seemed to Rat as if they really were flying high up in the sky, and that any second the dancers could fly right out of

the ballet center.

When the performance ended the lights came on, and there was not a dry eye in the ballet center. Everyone was crying, even Rat.

“What a performance!” said Dan. “Beautiful!” Then Dan said, “Rat, would you like to go backstage and meet Victor Victor?”

“Sure!” said Rat. So Rat got to go backstage and meet Victor Victor and another dancer named Victoria. They were nice, kind people.

Rat told Victor, “I won't lie. I did not want to come tonight, but now I want to dance and fly just like you do!”

Victor Victor told Rat, “Work hard and try, try, try, Rat, and your dreams just might come true!”

That night at home Rat called to Dan. Rat had on Dan's long underwear, and he was standing on a table.

“Rat!” said Dan. “What are you doing in my long underwear and why are you standing on the table?”

“Dan,” smiled Rat, “these are not long underwear. I am a dancer and these are my dance tights. I am Victor Victor and I am giving my performance of the Dance Of The Wild Chipmunk!”

Rat did a spin on the table, then jumped high into the sky. But Rat did not land softly like the real Victor Victor. He came down with a crash, and a lamp fell off the table and hit Rat right on the head.

“Now THAT was a sight to see!” said Dan.

## Vocabulary

### -ild

wild mild child

### -ind

kind wind find bind behind blind grind

### -igh / -ight

high might fright sight flight  
sigh night light fight right

### -uy

guy buy

### -y

why try fly try dry my  
sky cry fry sly by shy

### -ie

pie die tie lie vie

### long i at the end of a syllable

bicycle migrate wiper silent  
pilot viper minor widen

### -ance

tolerance performance abundance  
importance attendance instance  
appearance ignorance substance

## **Weird Words**

<b>backstage</b>	<b>behaving</b>	<b>head</b>	<b>anything</b>
<b>friend</b>	<b>another</b>	<b>chipmunk</b>	<b>remain</b>
<b>ballet</b>	<b>dancer</b>	<b>beautiful</b>	<b>across</b>
<b>around</b>	<b>feather</b>	<b>Victor</b>	<b>reached</b>
<b>different</b>	<b>underwear</b>	<b>read</b>	<b>center</b>

## **Dictation**

**The pilot saw the ducks migrate.**

**The ducks did not see the man in the blind.**

**Why do I cry when my ducks fly by in the sky?**

**That guy might buy the bright light.**

**Rat is not mild. Rat is a wild child.**

**Rat had no tolerance for the performance.**

**Rat did not know his own ignorance.**

**Is Rat in attendance?**

**Rat had an abundance of hope.**

**The man put no importance on his appearance.**

**The substance had a bad smell.**

**In this instance we will not try.**

**I might die of fright if I am right.**

**The kind viper was silent.**

**Did the pilot die on the flight?**