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My Father's Dragon

Ruth Stiles Gannett · *1948 · original English text (Project Gutenberg #30017; the file notes no evidence of a U.S. copyright renewal)*

One cold rainy day when my father was a little boy, he met an old alley cat on his street. The cat was very drippy and uncomfortable, and he asked her home. The hosted text is Gannett's original English, Project Gutenberg #30017. For grades K–2. A later copyright notice in the file is not the tale; quote the story.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

What does a kind boy pack, and what does he face, when he goes to rescue a dragon, and how should a school read this small adventure as kindness and courage rather than as mere caper?

"One cold rainy day when my father was a little boy, he met an old alley cat on his street. The cat was very drippy and uncomfortable so my father said, "Wouldn't you like to come home with me?" This"
Chapter One, My Father Meets the Cat

Elmer Elevator, when he was a little boy, is kind to an old alley cat. The cat tells him of a dragon on Wild Island, and he goes to help. The book is a small adventure of packing, of animals, and of courage. Teach the kindness first, for grades K–2. Quote the story, not the research note on copyright renewal that stands first in this file.

KEY CHARACTERS

Elmer Elevator
The little boy, later called "my father," who is kind to an alley cat and goes to help a dragon

The old alley cat
Drippy, unwanted, and the one who tells him of Wild Island

The dragon
The creature to be rescued, not collected

A COLD RAINY DAY

> *"One cold rainy day when my father was a little boy, he met an old alley cat on his street. The cat was very drippy and uncomfortable so my father said, "Wouldn't you like to come home with me?" This"*
> Chapter One, My Father Meets the Cat

Grades K–2
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01
A Drippy Cat
CHAPTER ONE

One cold rainy day the boy meets an old alley cat, very drippy and uncomfortable, and asks, "Wouldn't you like to come home with me?" The cat is surprised; she had never before met anyone who cared about old alley cats.

- The first sentence is exact. Chapter One is "My Father Meets the Cat."
- The boy's name, later spoken by his mother, is Elmer Elevator.
- Quote the story, not the opening note about copyright renewal.
- For grades K–2.

> *"One cold rainy day when my father was a little boy, he met an old alley cat on his street. The cat was very drippy and uncomfortable so my father said, "Wouldn't you like to come home with me?" This"*
> Chapter One, My Father Meets the Cat

02
A Mother, and a Saucer of Milk
CHAPTER ONE

The boy wants a furnace and a saucer of milk for the cat. His mother does not. He finds a way to be kind anyway. The book begins with that conflict, not with the dragon.

- Kindness to the unwanted animal is the first virtue.
- Do not turn the mother into a villain; the tale is light, and the boy is loyal to the cat.
- The name Elmer Elevator is in this chapter.
- K–2.

> *"One cold rainy day when my father was a little boy, he met an old alley cat on his street. The cat was very drippy and uncomfortable so my father said, "Wouldn't you like to come home with me?" This"*
> Chapter One

03
Wild Island
THE JOURNEY

The cat tells him of a dragon in need. He packs, and he goes. The adventure is a child's quest, item by item, animal by animal.

- Teach the packing as prudence, not only as comedy.
- The dragon is to be helped, not collected.
- Keep the place-name Wild Island as printed.
- Quote Gannett, not a later cartoon.

> *"One cold rainy day when my father was a little boy, he met an old alley cat on his street. The cat was very drippy and uncomfortable so my father said, "Wouldn't you like to come home with me?" This"*
> Chapter One

04
Courage, and a Rescue
THE LATER CHAPTERS

The boy must be brave among strange animals, and he must remember what he came for. The book stays light; the courage is still real.

- Do not inflate the danger, and do not deny it.
- Kindness remains the measure of the quest.
- Finish the rescue.
- K–2.

> *"One cold rainy day when my father was a little boy, he met an old alley cat on his street. The cat was very drippy and uncomfortable so my father said, "Wouldn't you like to come home with me?" This"*
> Chapter One

05
This File
THE EDITION

The hosted English is Gannett's, 1948, PG #30017. A research note on copyright renewal stands first; it is not the tale.

- Quote Chapter One, not the renewal note.
- Catalogue K–2.
- The story is told as "my father when he was a little boy."
- Not a later film.

> *"One cold rainy day when my father was a little boy, he met an old alley cat on his street. The cat was very drippy and uncomfortable so my father said, "Wouldn't you like to come home with me?" This"*
> Chapter One, My Father Meets the Cat

Kindness · A Small Quest · Courage · A Packing List · A Rescue

What to watch for as you read

GRADES K–2

1. The story opens: "One cold rainy day when my father was a little boy, he met an old alley cat on his street." Chapter One is "My Father Meets the Cat."
2. This is Gannett, 1948, PG #30017. A note on copyright renewal stands first; quote the tale, not the note. For grades K–2.
3. The boy's name is Elmer Elevator. Kindness to the unwanted cat is the first virtue, before the dragon.
4. He goes to Wild Island to help a dragon, not to collect one. Teach the packing as prudence, and the quest as kindness and courage.
5. Not a later film or cartoon.

Quotations are verbatim from the original English text (Project Gutenberg #30017; the file notes no evidence of a U.S. copyright renewal), Project Gutenberg #30017, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/my-fathers-dragon/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.