

# *A GOAT NAMED FRED*

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There once was a goat named Fred. Fred loved to eat. It did not matter what it was, Fred would eat it. Fred was hungry all the time. He would eat anything. He ate wood, tin cans, rubber boots, bones, and even metal parts.

Fred was not very smart, and sometimes Fred was very forgetful. He was a very curious goat and he loved to go exploring. However, when he did, he usually got into trouble. Because of this, the other animals laughed at him most of the time. Fred did not care. He was enjoying his life.

One day, while Fred was walking to town, he saw something he had never seen before. There was something hanging from a tree. It looked very unusual and delicious. Fred stopped to look at the thing in the tree.

He walked around the tree trying to find a way to eat the thing that was hanging there.

Fred went to the other side of the road to look at the tree from a distance. He thought and he thought until he came up with an idea on how to get the thing out of the tree so he could eat it.

The first thing he tried, was he ran as fast as he could toward the tree and then jumped high into the air. He missed the thing in the branches and crashed into the trunk of the tree. The whole tree shook, but the thing did not move.

Fred tried again, running as fast as he could. He jumped up, but he missed and crashed into the trunk once again, shaking the tree. Still the thing did not drop.

Fred stepped back. He needed another plan.

He had a second idea. He dug in his hooves and then ran as fast as he could straight into the tree. He hit the trunk with his head and the tree shook more than ever, but the thing did not fall. The thing in the tree rocked back and forth, but it did not come loose. It was still there.

Fred tried it again. He ran as hard as he could into the trunk of the tree. It shook and shuddered, but nothing happened.

Now he was tired. He was breathing hard and his head hurt.

He sat down and stared up at the thing in the tree. It was big and looked delicious.

Since he was tired, and his head hurt, he decided to go to town to take care of his business, and then, later in the day, he would try again when he would be more rested.

Fred went around the town saying hello to all his friends. He found some unusual things to eat, like a horseshoe, a rubber hose, and an old sock.

All the animals laughed at him, but he did not care. He was enjoying his life.

It was getting late and Fred realized he needed to go home.

On the way home, he saw the thing in the tree again. He had forgotten about the thing in the tree. It looked wonderful.

Fred thought and thought to get a plan to get the thing out of the tree.

He came up with a new idea. Maybe he could climb into the tree, so he ran at the tree, climbed up the trunk, almost got onto the first branch, but then he fell to the ground. He tried to do this over and over, but he could not get on top of the branch.

Once again, the animals laughed at him, but he did not care. He was enjoying his life.

He stopped and scratched his head with his back hoof as he tried to think of another plan. He walked around and around the tree looking up at the thing, but he still could not think of a way to get the thing down.

It was almost dark, and he needed to get home. So, he decided to return the next day.

When he got home, he told all the farm animals about the thing he had seen in the tree and how wonderful it looked.

The animals on the farm just laughed at him. He did not care. He was enjoying his life.

The next day, as he was walking to town, he saw the thing in the tree. He had forgotten about it again.

It looked so yummy that he had to try to get it down from the tree.

He walked around the tree trying to think of a way to get the thing down so he could eat it.

He came up with his fourth plan. He would try jumping straight up into the air. That way he would not have to run into the tree and get a headache again. He jumped and he jumped, but he was not able to jump high enough.

The animals saw him doing this and laughed at him. He did not care. He was enjoying his life.

Soon he stopped to rest. He thought that since it was such a wonderful day, he would take a nap under the big tree. It was cool and dark in the shade of the tree. He decided when he woke up he would try again.

He curled up and fell asleep.

While he was sleeping, a storm came up from the south. The wind began to howl and the trees began to swing back and forth. There was the loud noise of thunder.

Suddenly, Fred woke up from the noise, and just as he did, the thing in the tree fell on top of him.

Fred ate the thing that fell from the tree and then he walked home, satisfied.

The next day, as he walked to the town, he looked in the tree for the thing he had seen. He forgot that he had eaten the thing the day before. He could not understand where it had gone. He concluded that maybe someone else had gotten the thing out of the tree and eaten it. He continued on his way to the town looking for more things to eat.

He was enjoying his life.



**VOCABULARY** (*Match the word to its definition*)

- |                    |                                |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. explore _____   | a. limb, bough, part of a tree |
| 2. hang _____      | b. goat's feet                 |
| 3. crash _____     | c. to suspend, dangle, swing   |
| 4. realize _____   | d. tasty, yummy                |
| 5. shudder _____   | e. uncommon, not normal        |
| 6. hooves _____    | f. a loud noise from the wind  |
| 7. branch _____    | g. to understand, figure out   |
| 8. delicious _____ | h. run into, collide           |
| 9. howl _____      | i. to vibrate, shiver          |
| 10. unusual _____  | j. search, discover            |

**TRUE / FALSE**

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|--|-------|
| 1. Fred was a goat.                                    | T / F |
| 2. Fred liked to eat.                                  | T / F |
| 3. Fred found a thing in a tree.                       | T / F |
| 4. Fred ate a car.                                     | T / F |
| 5. The animals laughed at Fred                         | T / F |
| 6. Fred visited with the farmer.                       | T / F |
| 7. Fred ate a horseshoe, rubber hose, and an old sock. | T / F |
| 8. The thing disappeared the second day.               | T / F |
| 9. The thing fell on Fred.                             | T / F |
| 10. Fred got sick after eating the thing.              | T / F |

## MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. What kind of animal was Fred? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) horse
  - b) cow
  - c) donkey
  - d) goat
  
2. What did Fred see in the tree? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) apple
  - b) thing
  - c) toy
  - d) orange
  
3. Why did Fred have a headache? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) he ate too much
  - b) he hit the trunk with his head
  - c) he fell out of the tree onto his head
  - d) the horseshoe hit him on the head
  
4. Where did Fred go to see his friends? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) in town
  - b) in a tree
  - c) at the park
  - d) on the farm

**COMPREHENSION:** *(Write a complete sentence to answer the question.)*

1. Where did Fred see the thing?

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2. What are some of the things Fred ate?

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3. Where did Fred take a nap?

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4. What made the thing fall from the tree?

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5. Why did it not bother Fred that the animals laughed at him?

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6. Where did Fred go when it was late?

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7. Why did Fred want to eat the thing in the tree?

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8. Who did Fred say hello to in the town?

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9. Why had Fred not remembered that he had eaten the thing in the tree?

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10. Why did Fred have a headache?

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