

Milo Will Not Come Down

A cat goes up a tree. Going up was the easy part.

3 min read

Before you read

- **branch** — an arm of a tree
- **ladder** — steps you climb
- **shed** — a small hut for tools
- **leaned** — rested against



Milo the orange cat sitting high in the rambutan tree

¹ Milo is my cat. He is orange and he has white feet.

² Today Milo climbed the rambutan tree. He went up and up and up. Then he sat on a high branch.

³ "Come down, Milo!" I called.

⁴ Milo looked at me. He did not move.

⁵ Mum brought a tin of fish. She shook it. The fish smelled very good.

⁶ Milo stood up. He looked at the tin. Then he looked at the ground. The ground was far away.

⁷ Milo made a small sad sound.

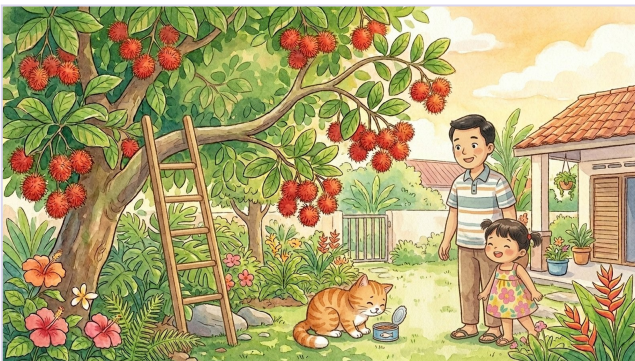


Mum shaking a tin of fish at the foot of the tree

⁸ Then Dad came home. He carried the ladder from the shed. He leaned it on the tree.

⁹ Dad climbed up slowly. He held out his hands. Milo stepped onto his arm.

¹⁰ "Good boy," said Dad.



Milo safe on the ground, eating from the tin

¹¹ On the ground, Milo ate the fish. He did not look at the tree.

¹² But the next day, Milo climbed it again.

Part A Choose the best answer

Circle the letter next to the right answer.

1. What colour is Milo?

- A black all over
- B orange with white feet
- C grey with stripes
- D brown and white

2. Where did Milo climb?

- A onto the roof
- B up the fence
- C up the rambutan tree
- D into the shed

3. What did Mum bring to the tree?

- A a tin of fish
- B a bowl of milk
- C a soft toy
- D a long rope

4. Who helped Milo get down?

- A Mum
- B the girl telling the story
- C Dad
- D nobody at all

Part B Write your answer

Answer in one or two sentences.

5. Milo was called, but he did not come down. Why not?

6. How do we know Milo was not happy up on the branch?

Part C Think deeper

There is no single right answer here. Say what you think, and say why.

7. The next day, Milo climbed the tree again. What do you think happened next? What in the story makes you think so?

8. Have you ever done something that you knew might go wrong? What happened, and why did you do it anyway?

Answer key

For parents and teachers

Part A

1. **B** — orange with white feet | 2. **C** — up the rambutan tree | 3. **A** — a tin of fish | 4. **C** — Dad

Part B

5. He was too high up and the ground was far away, so he was afraid to jump. Accept any answer that shows the child understood the height was the problem, not that Milo did not hear.
6. He made a small sad sound. Accept also: he did not move, he looked at the ground, he needed help to come down.

Part C

These answers vary. Mark the reasoning, not the answer.

7. A strong answer predicts something and ties it to the story — for example, Milo got stuck again because he keeps forgetting, or Dad left the ladder out because he knew Milo would climb. A weaker answer predicts something with no link back to the text. Prompt with: what in the story made you think that?
8. Any honest personal answer counts, as long as it gives a reason. The skill being practised is *because* — the child should be able to finish the sentence 'I did it because...'. Prompt rather than correct.

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