Rumi and the Rooftop Thump

A story about a small, safe mystery



MimoMango
Little Adventures. A Kinder Tomorrow.



Rumi was drawing beside the cottage window when something bumped overhead. Thump! His pencil jumped. He looked up at the ceiling, and his whiskers gave a tiny shiver.



Thump, rattle, tap! The sound came again. Rumi imagined a dancing giant wearing enormous boots. But the roof was much too small for even one enormous boot.



He found Dad folding towels. "There is a thump above my room," Rumi said. Dad put down a towel. "Let us listen together before we guess anything else."



They stood beside the open window. A breeze shook the oak tree outside. Then came another thump, followed by three little taps. Rumi held Dad's warm paw.



"Shall we climb up?" asked Rumi. "We can look safely from the garden," Dad replied. They went downstairs together. The roof could keep its mystery a little longer.



From the garden path, Rumi studied the roof. Nothing danced. Nothing stomped. Then the oak leaves fluttered, and something small and brown dropped onto a red tile.



Thump! The little thing bounced twice and rolled into the gutter. "An acorn!" cried Rumi. Dad nodded. "One small acorn can sound quite big inside a quiet room."



Rumi looked down. More acorns lay on the grass, each wearing a rough little cap. He picked up one that had already fallen and turned it gently.



"This fits inside my paw," he said. He set it on the path. It made only a tiny tick. Different places gave the same acorn different sounds.



They sat on the garden bench and waited for another breeze. The oak waved. Thump, tap, tap! This time Rumi's ears stood tall, and he smiled at Dad.



Back indoors, Rumi finished his drawing. He drew their cottage, the spreading oak, and one falling acorn. In a corner, he added a giant with very tiny boots.



Another thump sounded overhead. Rumi looked up and giggled. The roof still made its surprising noise, but now he knew a small, ordinary thing could explain it.



The end

What helped Rumi understand the sound?

What could you investigate safely with a grown-up?

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