

# Mittu's Trick

By Rohini Chintha

“*Dadaji, dadaji!*” Mittu called as he came down the stairs. “Can you take Rex for a walk today? I have loads of homework to do.”

Rex was Mittu's pet dog and it was his duty to take him out for a walk every evening.

*Dadaji* looked up from the television reluctantly.

“Please, *dadaji!*” pleaded Mittu.

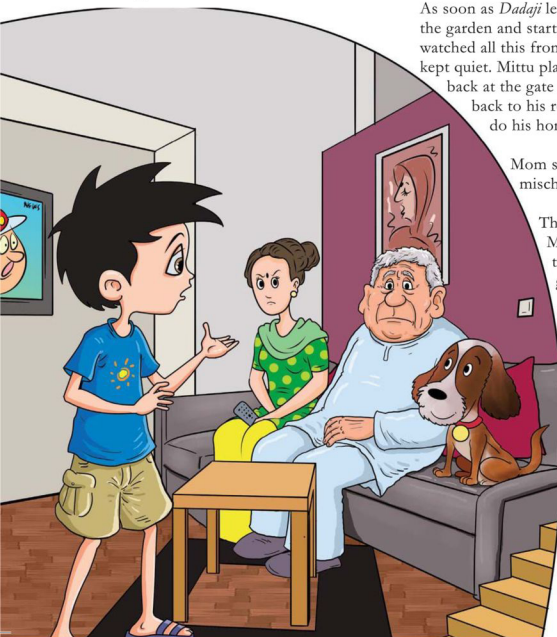
*Dadaji* got up, untied Rex and took him out for a walk.

As soon as *Dadaji* left, Mittu ran out into the garden and started playing ball. Mom watched all this from her work desk but kept quiet. Mittu played till he heard *dadaji* back at the gate and then he rushed back to his room and pretended to do his homework.

Mom smiled at Mittu's mischief.

The next day again, Mittu pleaded *dadaji* to take Rex for a walk giving the excuse of having to do lots of homework. *Dadaji* grunted showing his disapproval, but again took Rex for a walk.

Like yesterday, Mittu played in the garden till *dadaji* and Rex came back, and then ran upstairs just as they were about to enter the house.



Mom was annoyed, but did not say anything to Mittu.

The third evening mom sat in the hall next to *dadaji* watching television. When it was time for Rex's walk, Mittu came down and repeated his request to his grandfather.

"Mittu, I have been watching you for two days. You play in the garden when *dadaji* takes Rex for a walk. Why do you do so?" mom asked, raising her voice.

Mittu did not say anything.

"What's the matter Mittu?" mom asked again.

"Mom," said Mittu quietly. "I want *dadaji* to take Rex for a walk."

Mom was about to say something, but *dadaji* stopped her. He put a hand on Mittu's shoulder and asked gently, "Why Mittu? Why do you want me to take Rex for a walk?"

"My teacher says exercise is very important for a healthy life and a healthy heart. I want you to get enough exercise, *dadaji*. I tried to take you for a walk with me, but you wouldn't come. I love you *dadaji* and I want you to be there with me always," said Mittu tearfully.

*Dadaji* was stunned. Mom was silent for a moment and then hugged him. "Good thought, Mittu. I am sorry I

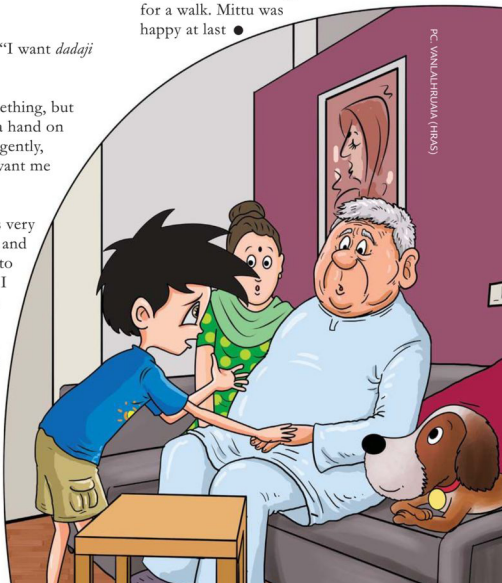
was harsh," she patted him and said.

*Dadaji* recovered and hugged Mittu too. "Thank you for reminding me about exercise. From today, I promise to walk and play with you everyday."

Mittu's eyes twinkled. He hugged *dadaji* and whistled to Rex, who bounded into the room.

Mittu rubbed Rex on the back. "You have two people to take you for a walk from today buddy," he said joyously.

Rex jumped onto *dadaji* and licked his face excitedly. They all laughed and went out for a walk. Mittu was happy at last ●



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