

When it Rained Frogs

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Mittu came running into the kitchen, where mom was baking a cake for him. “Mom, did it rain frogs in our garden, too?” he asked her excitedly.

“What?” mom asked back, greatly surprised.

“You heard me right mom. Did it rain frogs in our garden, too? It did in Aru’s garden. We were playing indoors because of the rain. It was then the gardener called out in a loud excited scream and we rushed out. And there the garden was, filled with hundreds of frogs! They looked dead at first mom, but then they croaked and happily hopped off into the bushes,” concluded Mittu in amazement.

“Good story, Mittu,” said mom laughing lightly. “What will happen next in your story? Will it rain cakes? If so, I will be disappointed as I have just finished baking you one.”

“It is the truth mom,” Mittu protested.

“Of course,” said mom with a wink, “I know.”

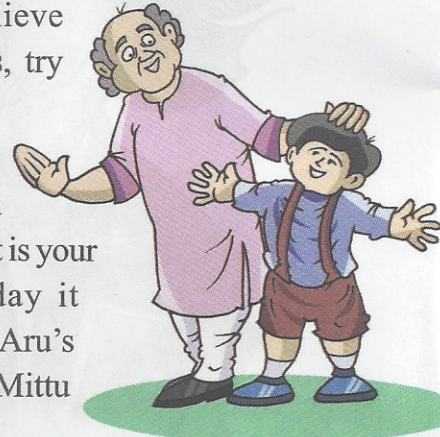
Mittu left dejected. How could Mom not believe such an amazing thing. Huh!

Mittu was staring blankly out of the window when Grandpa came in. “Hi, Mittu! What’s up?” asked Grandpa cheerfully.

“I won’t tell,” said Mittu looking the other way, “because even if I did, you wouldn’t believe me.”

“Come on!” said Grandpa encouragingly. “I always believe you. Anyways, try me.”

“Fine, it is the truth. If you don’t believe, it is your problem. Today it rained frogs in Aru’s garden,” said Mittu resignedly.



“Oh wow!” said grandpa excitedly. “How nice! You know Mittu, when I was a child we once had a rain of fish! We ran to the fields in the rain to collect the fish! And my mother made a delicious curry out of them. It was so unbelievable. If we hadn’t seen it with our own eyes, we would have called it a bluff.”

Mittu grew very interested, “Really

Grandpa? Did you really see it rained fish?
You swear?"

"Of course!"

"Oh wait till I tell mom," said Mittu rushing into the kitchen.

Mom came out in a minute. "Dad! How could you tell Mittu such tall tales?" Mom was angry.

"But it did rain fish," said grandpa in a matter-of-fact style.

"How can it rain fish and frogs, Dad?" Mom asked annoyed.

"Because of the tornados!" said grandpa knowingly. "Tornados are air columns formed between the clouds and the earth's surface. They look like a pillar between the earth and the sky. They spin at very very high speeds and can lift anything that is light in weight because of the high speed. When these tornados move on water bodies like ponds, rivers, seas and oceans, they pick up the light weighing animals like frogs and fish and transport them to far off places, in this case, Aru's garden. What is so unbelievable about it?" grandpa asked mom.

"Oh!" said Mittu curiously. "Is tornado the one that can carry off cars and topple buildings in movies, grandpa?"

"Yes. Some tornados are powerful enough to lift cars and buildings off the ground Mittu. You remember the movie '*The Wizard of Oz*' which we watched last week? It was a tornado that lifted Dorothy's house and carried it to



Land of Oz," grandpa reminded Mittu.

"Oh, yes I remember, Grandpa," said Mittu singing a song from the movie.

Mom looked stunned for a moment, but quickly recovered. "Is what you said true, dad?" she asked.

"Absolutely," said Grandpa smiling. "You can read it in the book on cyclones that is there in our library."

"Wow, Grandpa," Mittu said in wonder. "Now I know how it can rain fish and frogs, and how Dorothy went to the Land of Oz! I must tell this to my friends tomorrow at school. They will surely be surprised. I am sure they don't know about the tornado stuff yet!" Mittu rubbed his hands naughtily.

Mom and Grandpa had a good laugh. ●