

Matt climbed high up into the tree. Joe sat on the ground underneath the tree and watched Matt climb in the tree. He felt very jealous inside. Joe wanted to be able to climb the tree like Matt. However, whenever he tried to climb the tree, he skinned his knees and bruised his hands. He could not seem to get up any farther than the first branch of the tree.

That evening, Joe told his dad about wanting to climb a tree like Matt. Joe's dad offered to help Joe climb a tree. Joe's dad went outside with him and cupped a hand for Joe to put his foot in. Joe put his foot into his dad's cupped hand and pushed himself up to the first branch. Joe huffed and he puffed, but he still could not climb the tree. "Well, someday you will be able to climb a tree," said Joe's dad. "Maybe you will be able to climb a tree when you are a little older." Joe just glared at his dad.

The next day, Joe was looking up at the big oak tree in his front yard. "Why can Matt climb that tree and I can't?" he thought. "What is the mystery to climbing a tree?" Joe heard a whistling sound behind him. Joe turned around to see Steve, his neighbor, walking toward him. Steve was in college and played football on the college team. "Hi, Joe, why are you staring at that tree?" asked Steve. "I'm trying to figure out how to climb that tree," replied Joe. "Here, let me help you," said Steve. He picked Joe up in his big arms and tried to boost Joe up into the tree. However, Steve could not lift Joe any higher than the first branch. "I think this is as high as I will get in a tree," Joe said sadly.

Joe watched as Steve walked away whistling. "Why can't I climb that tree?" Joe wondered. Suddenly, Joe heard a sound behind

him. Running toward him was the next-door neighbor's dog, Spike. Joe froze in fear. Spike was a very mean dog and would bite any person he saw. Joe looked to his left and his right, but there was nowhere to run and Spike was getting closer. Without even thinking, Joe started to climb the tree. He climbed up far into the highest branches. He watched as Spike circled around the bottom of the tree. Finally, Spike ran back home.

Joe realized what he had done! He had climbed a tree without anyone else's help! Joe was very excited that he had finally climbed a tree. Joe ran home to tell his dad that he had finally climbed a tree. Joe told Matt all about climbing the tree the next day at school. He did not tell Matt why he had climbed that tree. He didn't want Matt to think that he was a sissy. Joe never had trouble climbing a tree again.

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