

The Catching Tree

Story By: Andrew Frinkle



Linda looked up at the tree. It was the biggest tree in town. It was so big that it caught things that people lost. If something floated away or blew away, it was usually caught in the tree. Linda had lost her kite. She wanted to climb up and see if it

was in the tree. She thought she saw it in one of the high branches. She had to climb it to make sure. The branches were not close to the ground. They were high up. She needed a ladder to start climbing up the tree. She began to climb. In the lowest branches, she found bird nests. Squirrels chattered at her and ran the other way. She went higher.

She found an old baseball. Then there was a kite that was not hers. She found someone's kitten, but it ran away from her. She went higher still.

A newspaper was caught in one of the branches. Then there was some string. A balloon was trapped in the leaves. There were more birds, too. She went even higher.

More birds' nests and angry squirrels greeted her. She found a paper airplane. Then there was an old shoe, which hung by dirty laces. Next she found a lady's hat caught in some twigs. She went even higher to the top.

At last, she found her kite. She freed it and tied it to her waist. She found other things, too. There was a toy rocket, another newspaper, a tennis racket, and a TV antenna. There was an eagle's nest and other things, too.

Before she went down, she shook down all the stuff that belonged to people. She left the animals alone. They belonged in the tree. By the time she reached the ground again, the area around the tree was covered with things she had shaken loose.

Many people were surprised, but they were happy to get their things back. She was just happy to have her kite.

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What did Linda lose?
A. her cat B. her kite C. her ball D. her balloon
2. Where did Linda think the kite was?
A. in the ditch B. in the weeds
C. across the road D. in a tree
3. Which of these did Linda NOT find in the tree?
A. birds B. kites C. crayons D. newspapers
4. What did Linda need to climb the tree?
A. a rope B. gloves C. boots D. a ladder
5. What did Linda do with all the other stuff she found in the tree?
A. She left it there. B. She threw it down to the ground.
C. She kept it all. D. She ignored it.