

Fishing from a Boat

By Clark Ness www.clarkness.com



One day Matthew was out in his yard.

"I think I will go fishing," said Matthew.

"That would be fun," said one of his cats.

"Yes, I think you should go fishing," said the other cat. "Can we go with you?"

"Yes, you can come with me. We will go fishing," said Matthew.

Matthew went and asked his mother about going fishing. His mother said it would be okay. Matthew and his two cats then started walking down the road with their fishing poles. Soon they came to a stream.

"There should be fish in this stream," said the bigger cat.

"Look, there is a boat. It would be cool to go fishing in a boat," said the smaller cat.

The three walked up to the boat to get a better look at it.

"Do you like my boat?" asked a turtle that was swimming near by.

"Yes, it is a nice boat. Can we go fishing in your boat?" asked Matthew.

"Yes, you can go fishing in my boat, but only one at a time. It is a small boat," said the turtle.

"Matthew, you can go first," said the smaller cat. "We can fish from shore."

"Thank you," said Matthew. He put on a PFD¹ that was in the boat.

"This will keep me from sinking if I fall out of this boat," said Matthew. He rowed out into the stream and started fishing. Soon he had a fish on his line. He pulled the fish into the boat.

"Please let me go back into the stream," said the fish. "I want to stay in the water with my friends."

"I think that would be okay," said Matthew.

The bigger cat heard the fish from shore and said, "I think that would be okay, too."

"He seems like a smart fish," said the smaller cat.

Matthew took the hook out of the fish's mouth. He then put the fish back into the stream.

"Thank you," said the fish. "Here is a magic rock. It can sing any song to you that you want to hear."

"Thank you," said Matthew. "I will let it sing to me when I go home."

Matthew then rowed back to shore, tied up the boat, took off the PFD, and put it into the boat.

"Turtle, thank you for letting me use your boat,"
said Matthew.

"I am glad that you liked it," said the turtle.

Matthew and his two cats walked home. They let
the singing rock sing to them all the way back home.

¹ PFD - personal floatation device or life jacket

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level - 1.8

Flesch Reading Ease - 98.2

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