



## A Crane for Grandma

Grandma, from high up on the rooftop, could see everything that was going on and she didn't like what she saw. She wanted to be the centre of attention and nobody was taking the slightest notice of her. George and Mr Kranky were running round and getting excited about the enormous animals. Mrs Kranky was washing up in the kitchen, and Grandma was all alone on the rooftop.

'Hey you!' she yelled. 'George! Get me a cup of tea this minute, you idle little beast!'

'Don't listen to the old goat,' Mr Kranky said. 'She's stuck where she is and a good thing, too.'

‘But we can’t leave her up there, Dad,’ George said. ‘What if it rains?’

‘George!’ Grandma yelled. ‘Oh, you horrible little boy! You disgusting little worm! Fetch me a cup of tea at once and a slice of currant cake!’

‘We’ll have to get her out, Dad,’ George said. ‘She won’t give us any peace if we don’t.’

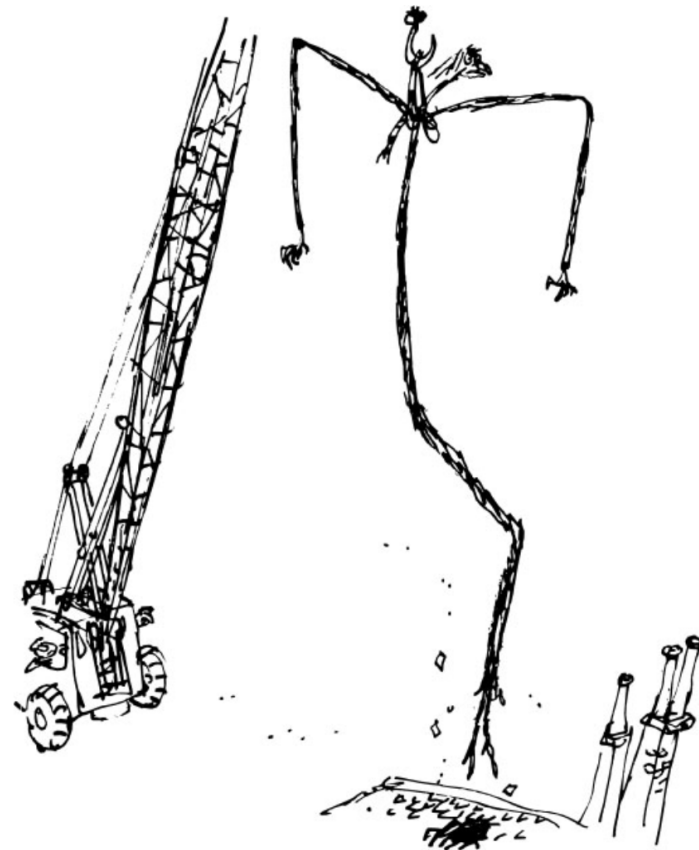
Mrs Kranky came outside and she agreed with George. ‘She’s my own mother,’ she said.

‘She’s a pain in the neck,’ Mr Kranky said.

‘I don’t care,’ Mrs Kranky said. ‘I’m not leaving my own mother sticking up through the roof for the rest of her life.’

So in the end, Mr Kranky telephoned the Crane Company and asked them to send their biggest crane out to the house at once.

The crane arrived one hour later. It was on wheels and there were two men inside it. The crane men climbed up on to the roof and put ropes under Grandma’s arms. Then she was lifted right up through the roof ...

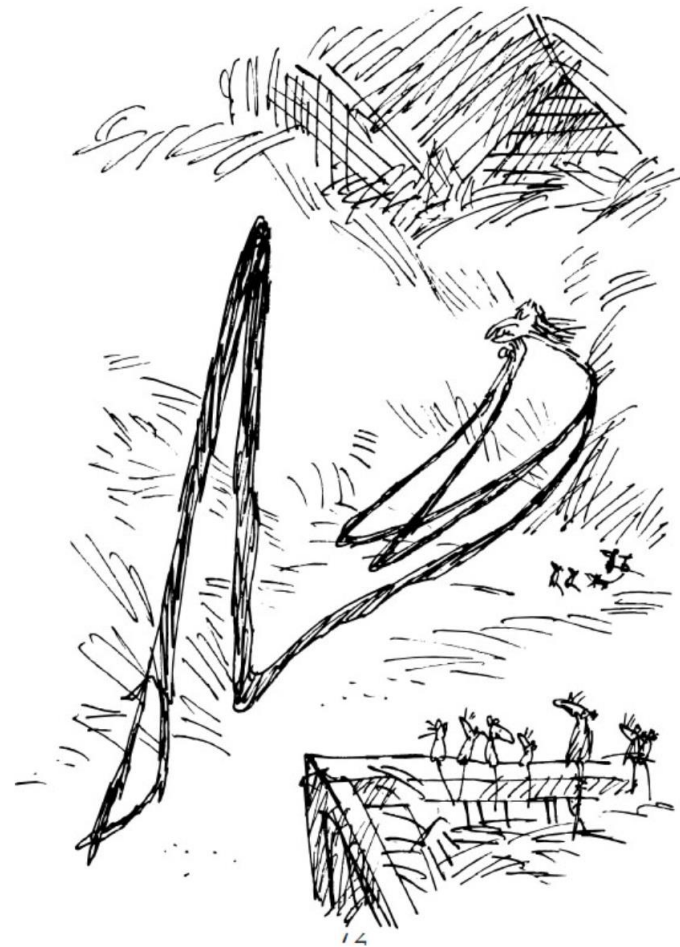


In a way, the medicine had done Grandma good. It had not made her any less grumpy or bad-tempered, but it seemed to have cured all her aches and pains, and she was suddenly as frisky as a

ferret. As soon as the crane had lowered her to the ground, she ran over to George's huge pony, Jack Frost, and jumped on to his back. This ancient old hag, who was now as tall as a house, then galloped about the farm on the gigantic pony, jumping over trees and sheds and shouting, 'Out of my way! Clear the decks! Stand back, all you miserable midgets or I'll trample you to death!' and other silly things like that.



But because Grandma was now much too tall to get back into the house, she had to sleep that night in the hay-barn with the mice and the rats.



Task- answer the following questions:

- 1.) What does the word 'idle' mean on page 1. Write down what you think it means from the context and then look it up to see if you are correct.
- 2.) Why do you think his grandma has described him as 'idle'?
- 3.) List three words or phrases that you can think of which describe George's grandmother as a person?
- 4.) Put these events in order by numbering them from 1-4 (1 happening first.)

- The grandmother had to sleep with the mice and rats.
- A crane arrived to free the grandmother.
- The grandmother was saying unkind things to George.
- The grandmother rode on a gigantic horse.