

# Fish, Feathers and Flies



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# Fish, Feathers and Flies

Written by Pat Mathew

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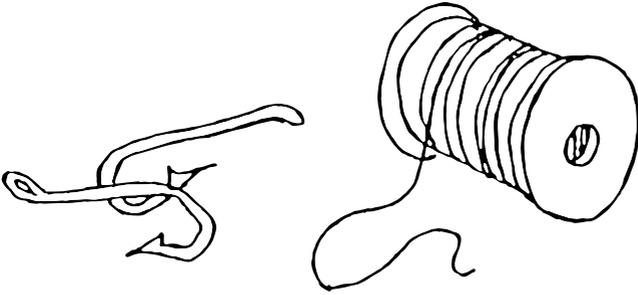
Dad liked fly fishing and looking for the materials to make a good fly.



My Dad liked fishing.

He liked fly fishing best of all.

He used to make a lot of  
his own flies. Sometimes he  
had trouble getting the right  
stuff to make them with.



The best things are natural ones,  
like hair and feathers and fur.

That way you get more natural colours  
and the fish are more easily fooled.

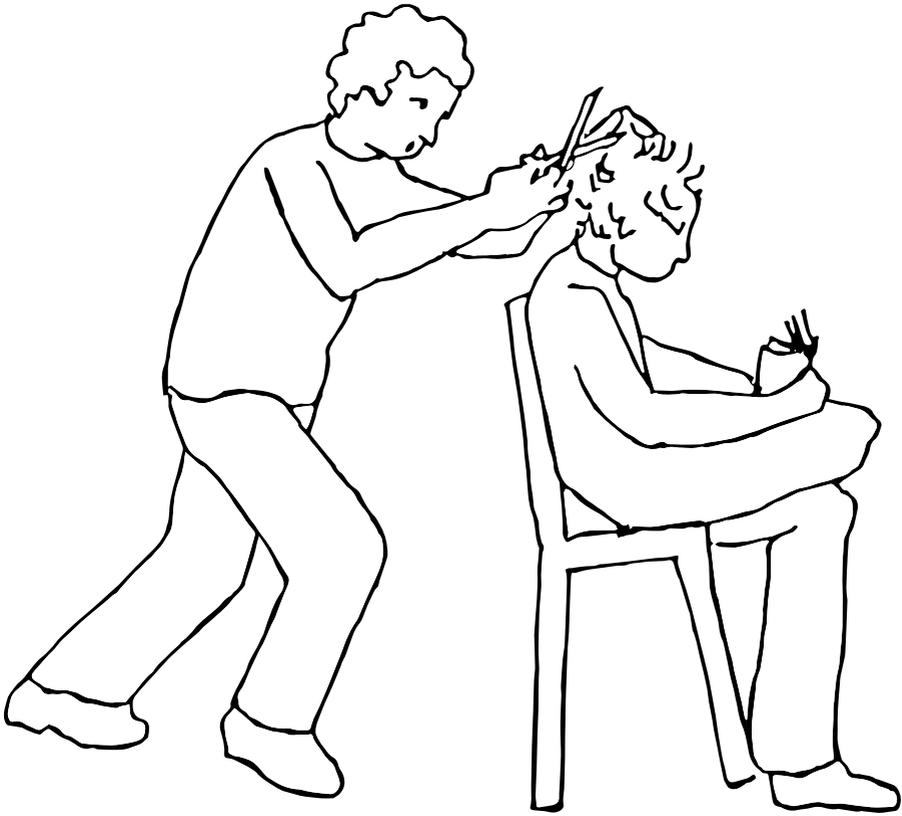


Sometimes he used bits of our hair.

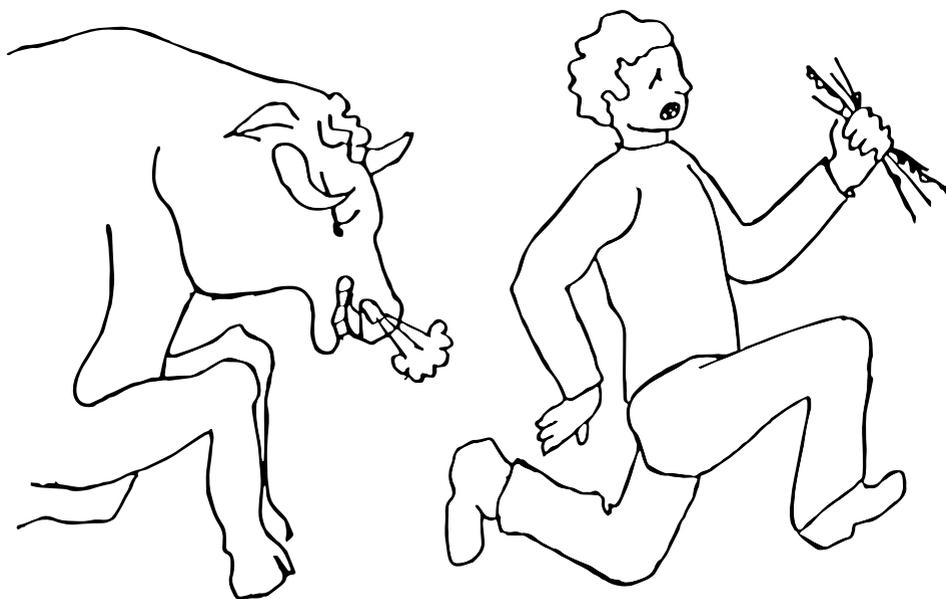
He would sneak up and snip off a bit  
while we were taking no notice of him.

Sometimes he used chook feathers.

Sometimes he used possum or red fur.



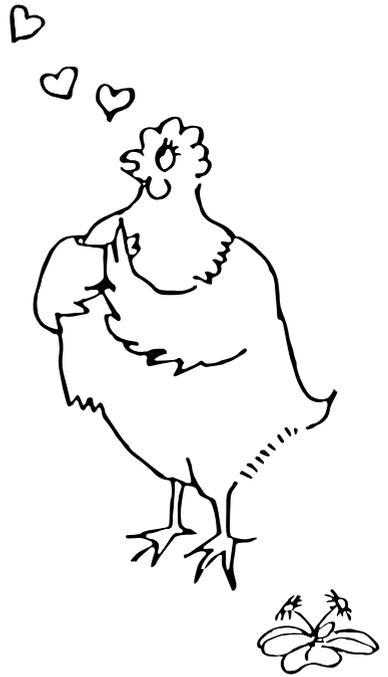
Now and then he pinched a few hairs  
from the cow's tail, or from the horse.



Old Dick, who lived down  
the road, gave mum a beaut  
rooster one year. We called  
the rooster Old Dick too.

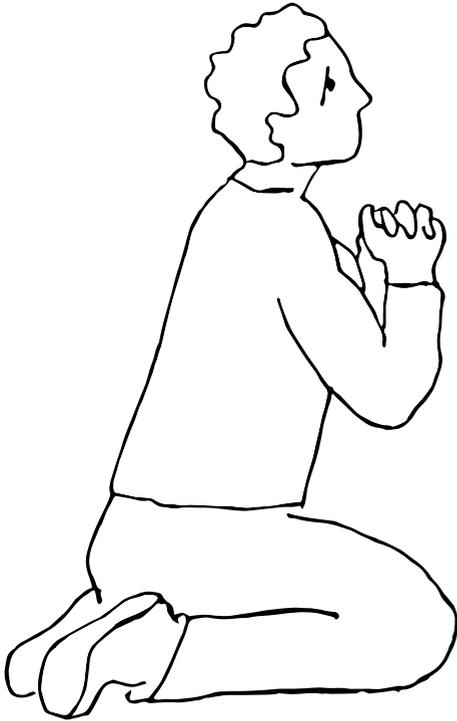
He was big and nearly all black, but he had a sort of greeny colour along his back when he got into the sun. He had a few red feathers, and a few sort of speckled ones around his head and neck.





Dad wanted some of these feathers.  
But Mum said “No”. She said, “You  
can have some when he dies.”

Dad nagged and nagged, but  
Mum still said “No.”

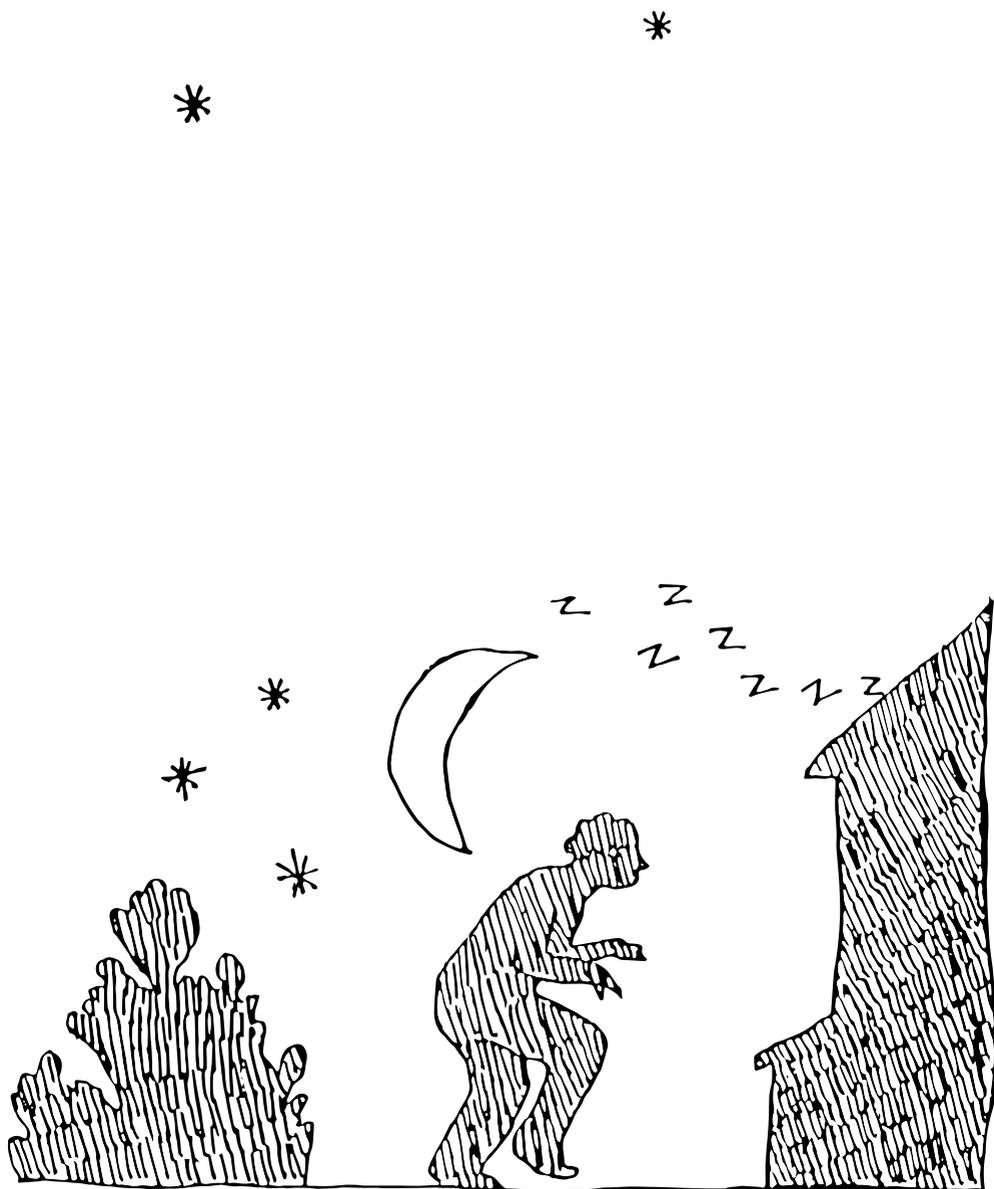


Dad got sick of it.

He couldn't wait.

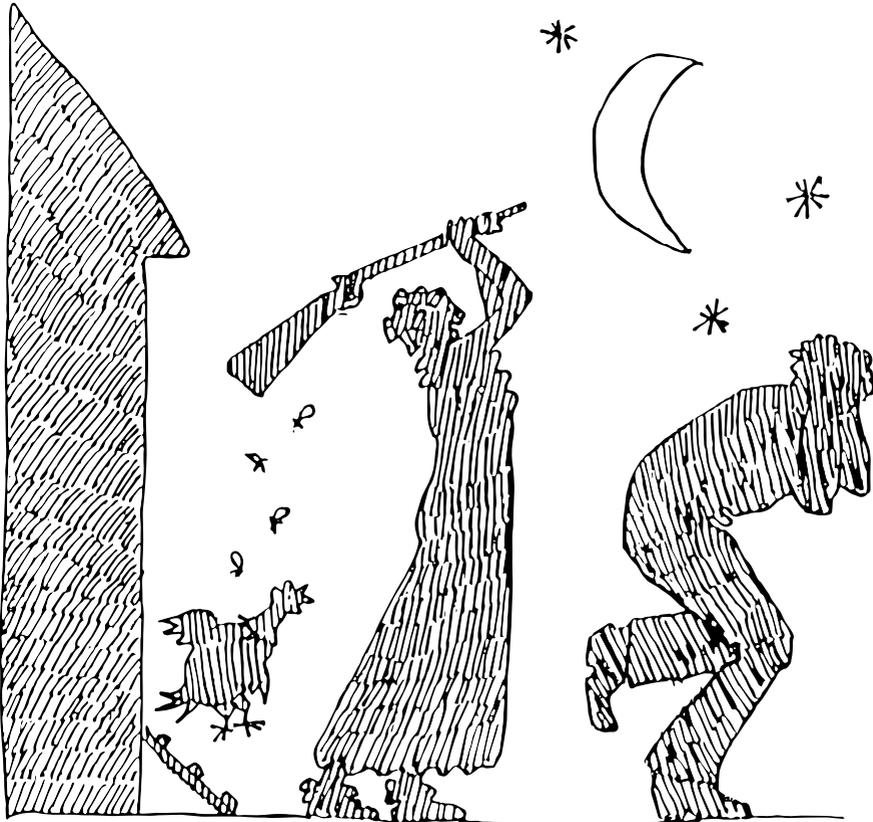
So one night he sneaked up to the chookhouse and pulled out a couple of hackle feathers.

Old Dick let out a terrible squawk. The chooks cackled and flew off the perches. There was a terrible din going on.



Mum went racing out with  
the gun. She thought it might  
be a native cat. When she saw  
Dad she was pretty wild.

She was even wilder when  
she saw Old Dick – dead as  
a doornail.



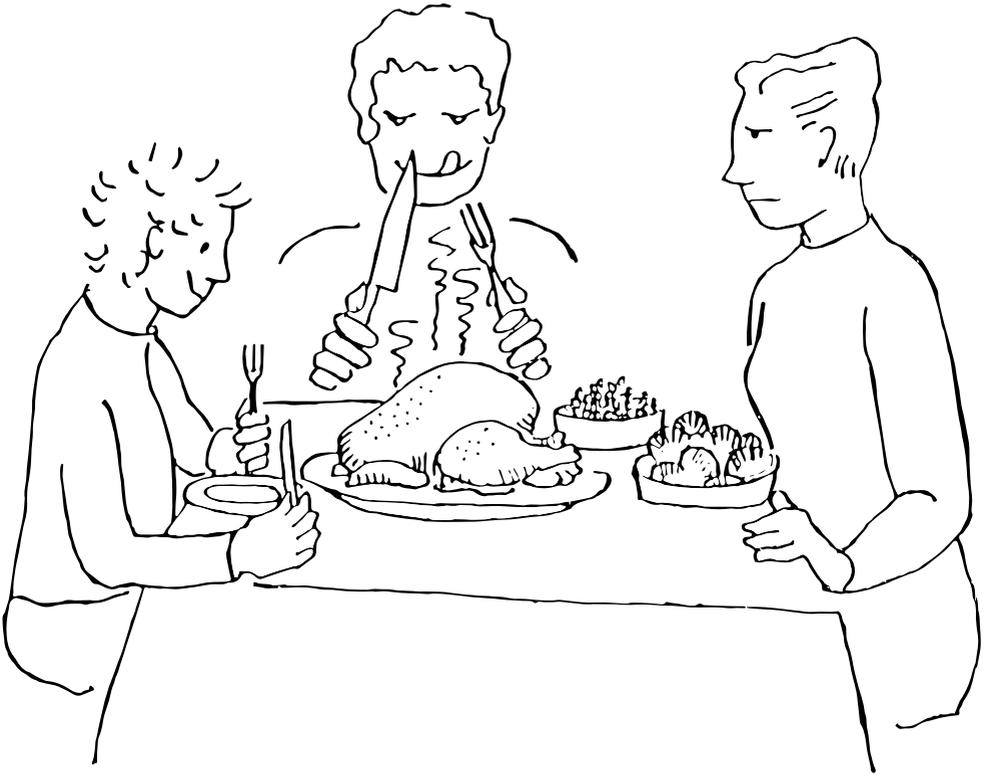
Dad reckoned it was a good job.  
He said you wouldn't want to breed  
chickens from a weak old bugger like  
that. Fancy dying of fright just because  
someone pulled out a couple of feathers!



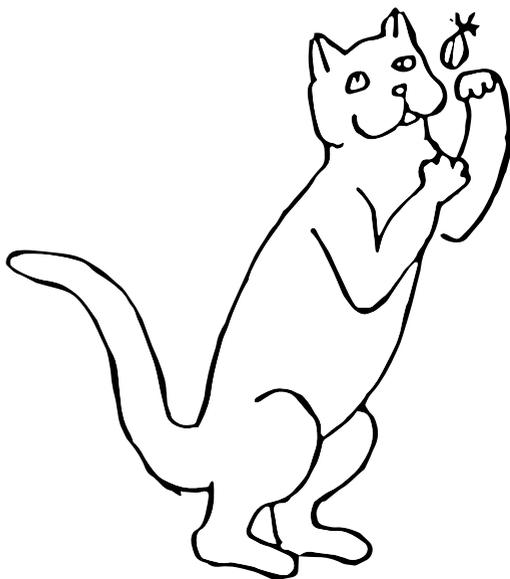
Mum chopped Old Dick's head off  
and plucked him.

We had him for dinner the next day.  
He wasn't very nice.

In fact he was darn tough!

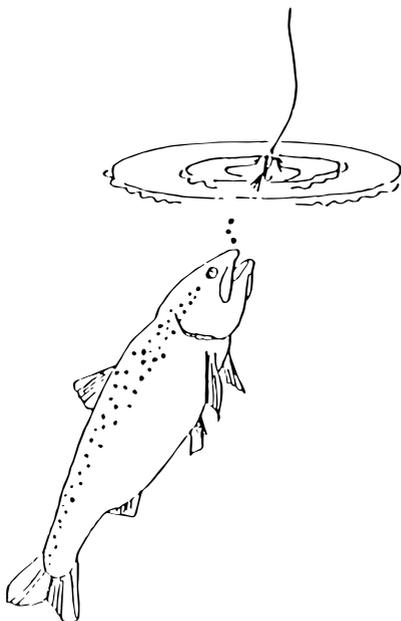


Mum gave Dad all the feathers.  
There were quite a lot of them.  
Dad made three or four flies from  
the best of the neck feathers.





He never did catch any fish with them  
though. Mum said it served him right.





# 25 Stories

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Written by learners and published  
as a resource for others to share  
on their learning journeys

During the late 1980s and early 1990s, the Adult Literacy and Basic Education (ALBE) Resources Unit in Devonport, Tasmania, published over 50 stories that had been written by learners as part of their literacy learning program. The writers were closely involved in the production of their stories, with the understanding that the resources would be made available for other learners, teachers and tutors. Since their initial publication there has been continuing interest in the stories, that contain relevant content and appropriate reading levels for adult learners. They are widely used by individuals and organisations across Australia as reading resources and as models for writing.

25 Stories is a selection of those works that have been republished and made available to download, free of charge from the Tasmanian Council for Adult Literacy (TCAL) website, [www.tcal.org.au](http://www.tcal.org.au). Each story has been assigned an Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF) level for reading and writing.

TasTAFE and TCAL wish to thank the original writers, illustrators, learners, teachers and publishers who have generously made these stories available for others to share.

