The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss

The sun did not shine.
It was too wet to play.
So we sat in the house all that cold, cold, wet day.
I sat there with Sally.
We sat there, we two.
I said, "how I wish we had something to do!"
It is too wet to go out and too cold to play ball.

So we sat in the house.
We did nothing at all.
So all we could do was to sit, sit, sit, sit!
We did not like it.
We did not it one little bit.

Then something went BUMP!
Oh, that bump made us jump!
We looked!
Then we saw him step in on the mat!
We looked, and we saw him!
The Cat in the Hat!

He said to us, "why do you sit there like that?"
"I know it is wet and the sun is not sunny.
But we can have lots of good fun that is funny!"
"I know some good games we could play," said the cat.
"I know some new tricks," said the Cat in the Hat.
"I know a lot of good tricks and will show them to you.
Your mother will not mind at all if I do."

Then Sally and I did not know what to say.
Our mother was out of the house for the day.
Our fish said, "No, No, make that cat go away!
Tell that Cat in the Hat you do NOT want to play.
He should not be here.
He should not be about.
He should not be here when your mother is out!"

"Now, now, have no fear.
Have no fear," said the cat.
"My tricks are not bad," said the Cat in the Hat.
"Why, we can have lots of good fun, if you wish,
with a game that I call up with a fish!"
"Put me down," said the fish.
"This is no fun at all!
Put me down, I do NOT wish to fall!"
"Have no fear," said the cat.
"I will not let you fall.
I will hold you up high as I stand on a ball.
With a book on one hand, and a cup on my hat!
But that is not ALL I can do, said the Cat in the Hat.

From *Catch-22* by Joseph Heller

Yossarian looked at him soberly and tried another approach. “Is Orr crazy?”

“He sure is,” Doc Daneeka said.

“Can you ground him?”

“I sure can. But first he has to ask me to. That’s part of the rule.”

“Then why doesn’t he ask you to?”

“Because he’s crazy,” Doc Daneeka said. “He has to be crazy to keep flying combat missions after all the close calls he’s had. Sure, I can ground Orr. But first he has to ask me to.”

“That’s all he has to do to be grounded?”

“That’s all. Let him ask me.”

“And then you can ground him?” Yossarian asked.

“No, then I can’t ground him.”

“You mean there’s a catch?”

“Sure there is a catch,” Doc Daneeka replied. “Catch-22. Anyone who wants to get out of combat duty isn’t really crazy.”

There was only one catch and that was Catch-22, that specified that a concern for one’s own safety in the face of dangers that were real and immediate was the process of a rational mind. Orr was crazy and could be grounded. All he had to do was ask; and as soon as he did, he would no longer be crazy and would have to fly more missions. Orr would be crazy to fly more missions and sane if he didn’t, but if he was sane, he had to fly them. Yossarian was moved very deeply by the absolute simplicity of this clause of Catch-22 and let out a respectful whistle.

“That’s some catch, that Catch-22,” he observed.

“It’s the best there is,” Doc Daneeka replied.

The Old Man and the Sea by E. Hemingway

He could not see the green of the shore now but only the tops of the blue hills that showed white as though they were snow-capped and the clouds that looked like high snow mountains above them. The sea was very dark and the light made prisms in the water. The myriad flecks of the plankton were annulled now by the high sun and it was only the great deep prisms in the blue water that the old man saw now with his lines going straight down into the water that was a mile deep.

The tuna, the fishermen called all the fish of tha tspecies tuna and only distinguished among them by their proper names when they came to sell them or to trade them for baits, were down again. The sun was hot now and the old man felt it on the back of his neck and felt the sweat trickle down his back as he rowed.

I could just drift, he thought, and sleep and put a bight of line around my toe to wake me. But today is eighty-five days and I should fish the day well.

Just then, watching his lines, he saw one of the projecting green sticks dip sharply.

“Yes,” he said. “Yes,” and shipped his oars without bumping the boat. He reached out for the line and held it softly between the thumb and forefinger of his right hand. He felt no strain nor weight and he held the line lightly. Then it came again. This time it was a tentative pull, not solid nor heavy, and he knew exactly what it was. One hundred fathoms down a marlin was eating the sardines that covered the point and the shank of the hook where the hand-forged hook projected from the head of the small tuna.

The old man held the line delicately, and softly, with his left hand, unleashed it from the stick. Now he could let it run through his fingers without the fish feeling any tension.

UK weather: Storm Jorge* set to bring 70mph gales and up to 80mm of rain

Flood-hit communities are bracing for further damage, with Storm Jorge forecast to bring heavy rain and strong winds across the UK over the weekend. Parts of Wales and northern England could see between 50 to 80mm of rain on Friday as the storm hits the UK, the Met Office warned. Strong winds are forecast for much of England, Wales and Northern Ireland on Saturday, reaching 70mph in coastal areas and up to 60mph inland. When asked about the weekend's weather prospects, Met Office forecaster Emma Salter said: "It's not good news I'm afraid, given all the recent rainfall we've had." She described Friday as "another wet and breezy day". There will be rain first thing in the South West and Wales, with a fairly dry start for most other places," she added. "That rain in the far South West will move eastwards and it will be raining pretty much everywhere by lunchtime."

The Met Office's chief meteorologist, Paul Gundersen, said further flooding is possible with rain forecast to fall on already saturated ground. Flooding along parts of the River Severn, which has reached close to its highest levels in some areas, is likely until at least Sunday, the Environment Agency said. A severe "danger to life" flood warning covering the river at the Wharfage in Ironbridge, Shropshire, remains in place on Thursday, while 82 flood warnings and 125 flood alerts have been issued. Rising waters pushed back the town's temporary flood barriers towards a pub and other businesses, sparking fears that the defences could be fully breached.

*Jorge [hɔrhe] (pronounced /xorxe/ in Spanish)