

# Oak's Big Dream

A gentle breeze casts ripples in the pond all the way to the bank, as crisp leaves dry out in the hot summer sun, and can be heard rustling softly. The small oak tree, named Oak, who's leaves they were, stared up at Gum, the gigantic gum tree standing just across the path. "Oh I wish I could be that big and tall and sturdy but I'm just a small, flimsy, short little oak tree who will never be that tall! But I would love to grow to be like him," thought Oak. "But that won't stop me from imagining I'm like that." That night, Oak dreamt a wonderful dream about towering over all the trees in the park, and even being taller than Gum! But in the morning, his reflection in the pond reminded him of exactly who he was and what he looked like. Oak thought maybe he was dreaming too big. He sighed glancing first up at the sky and then down at the ground which seemed even closer now, his roots feeling barely that deep in the soil.

Sunset coloured leaves drift down to the ground that was scattered with withered leaves. Oak's branches were now bare and he thought that he seemed just the slightest bit taller than before. Although he thought he was probably imagining it. Oak stared off into the distance unsurprisingly thinking about his height and how far from his dream he was. He was slightly pleased that a squirrel had decided to store her acorns in his hollow hole in the higher end of his trunk. Oak himself had thought of it as something all trees had, but now realised that very few trees in the park had one (although there's looked way bigger than his.) He continued to secretly hope he would someday be taller than all the trees around, even though he never told anyone as they would just laugh.

Snow fell softly covering Oak's now thicker branches which sheltered a few deers from the freezing, crunching snow. His roots were deeper now and had helped him withstand all the storms that had come and passed over the last month or so. Oak was now about a one third of the way up against Gums trunk and he was rather very pleased with himself for reaching this height which he thought he would never achieve. He still thought he was dreaming too big but tried to keep hoping that he would someday reach his goal.

Flowers had just started to bloom and animals were everywhere. Oak was now halfway up against Gum and his leaves had started to grow back again on his sturdy thick branches. A blackbirds' nest perched on one of them, neatly made with twigs, soft, downy feathers and fallen leaves. The pond now had lilypads growing in it and Oak loved looking at his reflection and seeing how much he had grown. He still hadn't told anyone about his big dream for ages and longed to tell somebody. It got rather lonely not being able to tell anyone his dream but he didn't want anyone to laugh at him or tease him. Although he was rather pleased with his progress.

Oak's autumn dry leaves rustled softly in the breeze. He was now three quarters of the way up against Gum and his reflection could no longer fit in the now tiny pond. His goal was now in sight and he thought excitedly about how tall he would be next season and that made him even more excited. Gum was startled when he looked across the path and realised how much Oak had grown. He politely applauded Oak for his progress but said he would never be as tall as him. "You see, you are just an oak tree, and I am a great tall gum tree." This brought much disappointment to Oak, and he felt discouraged. "I will be taller than him someday!" Oak thought to himself with determination. "You just wait and see Gum. You just wait and see."

Another Autumn season came around, and leaves were starting to fall from Oak's branches, and drift to the ground covered with hundreds of other dry, crisp leaves. Oak awoke from his sleep and looked across at Gum. "That's weird," he thought out loud. "I'm face to face with Gum and it looks as if we're the same height!" Gum glanced across at Oak who surprisingly looked way taller. If Gum hadn't had roots at that moment to hold him up he would of fallen right over in astonishment. "Why Oak you're as tall as me and you're only just an oak tree. You aren't meant to grow to be this tall!" Oak in reply said, "I just kept hoping and dreaming about being this tall and now I have achieved my goal!"

The rising sun cast strange shadows around the ground as Oak was waking up. And as he opened his eyes, and his vision was starting to clear, he saw something that was beyond his wildest dream! He was now taller than Gum! He was absolutely overwhelmed with happiness as he had never actually thought he could reach this height. His persistence and determination to achieve his big dream, had paid off.

Always remember no dreams are ever too big.

By Erica Maxwell

Age - 10

