

Up a Tree Without a Paddle

When Nancy and I were dating, every now and again, I would say something like: "I wish it wouldn't rain today." And she would always counter with the old saying: "If wishes were horses then beggars would ride!" I would just look at her with a sideways look -- I had never heard that saying before. Even to this day if I say something about "wishing something would happen," she is likely to whip out that old saying and beat me over the head with it -- just because she knows it annoys me.

Starting when Katie, our daughter, was just a little girl, if she ever said an "I wish..." statement, I would counter with Nancy's old saying -- with a slight modification. I would say: "If wishes were horses, then beggars would fly!" I know, it doesn't really make sense, but I was always mixing up words to old sayings and songs, just for fun. Little did I know the effect it was having...

Years went by, and Katie went away to college. One day, one of her roommates said, "I wish...", and Katie countered with: "If wishes were horses then beggars would fly!" Her roommate said, "Fly? Beggars would FLY? I don't think that's how it goes..."

Later, I got a phone call from Katie! I think her entire world was rocked a bit -- "Daddy, It's RIDE, not FLY! Beggars would RIDE! FLY? What does that even mean? Why would a beggar FLY?" I'm sure she wonders to this day how many other "old sayings" I have slightly modified and taught her...

To this day, I kind of wonder that too... I didn't really keep a list of all the phrases I corrupted or anything. Oh well, it's like they say, "A bird in the hand is worth two and a bush." Or something like that...

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