

Edward thinks Troy's hair routine is **ABSURD**. A full 10 out of 10 on a scale of **RIDICULOUS** things to be doing. Troy gets up 50 minutes earlier than me every day (*58 minutes earlier on a Saturday because of the extra wash*). If you add all this time up, Troy is losing out on **38.88** whole nights of sleep. **EVERY YEAR**. Edward loves a lie-in. So he thinks Troy has totally **LOST THE PLOT**. And I have to agree with him.

Troy spends more time on his hair routine than a movie star probably does for a night out at the Oscars. Except the Oscars happen once a year. **Troy does it every day.**

The (hair) routine:

1. Wash twice. Three times on a Saturday. (Why would it be dirtier on a Saturday?)

2. Condition (using my mum's expensive bottle she gets **especially** from the hairdresser and seems not to notice that it **mostly** ends up on Troy's head).

3. Blow dry. (Why use one hairdryer when you could use two? One in each hand.)

4. Comb.

5. Brush (apparently 4 and 5 are **TOTALLY** different and both **VERY** important).

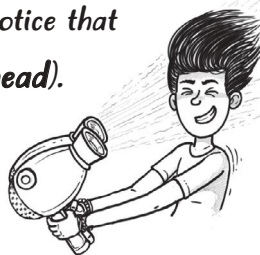
6. Comb again.

7. Gel.

8. Wax.

9. Twist. (I mean . . . what?)

10. Look lovingly into the mirror.
For eight whole minutes (at least).



This is how the **DREW DIAL OF BIZARRE BEHAVIOUR** was born – with Troy’s hair routine (**DREW DIAL RATING 10/10**). I started scoring other **ODD**, **WEIRD**, and totally **RIDICULOUS** things that seemed to go on around me. I didn’t even have to look very hard. This stuff was happening **ALL THE TIME AND ALL OVER THE PLACE**. Most of the time it was like it was **ONLY ME** that could see it.



RATINGS ON THE DREW DIAL

Some examples:

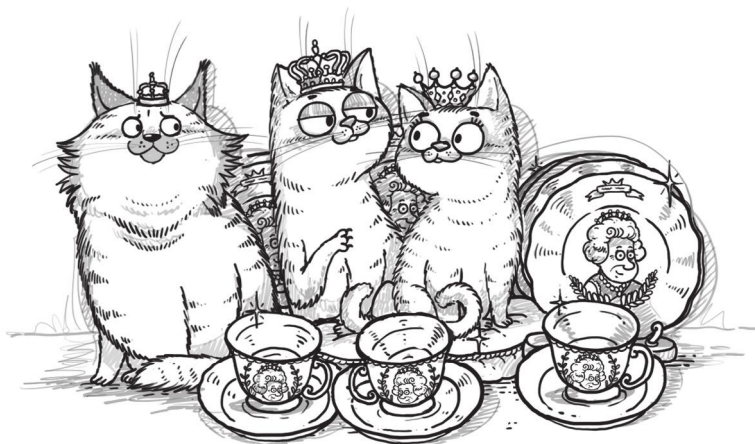


DREW DIAL RATING 9/10: Our nativity play this year had been called *Elves Ruin Christmas*. Everyone was asked to come to school in **ELF COSTUMES** on the day of the show. Douglas Joiner’s mum had read the instructions wrong and he came in dressed as **ELVIS**. The singer. Who had died like forty years ago. Is it just me? But . . . How did she not think she might have got this one wrong?

What on earth did she think *Elvis* had to do with the nativity? Me, Priya and Edward were laughing so much we couldn't go on stage for the first song. Miss Chester (*the music teacher*) made us clean the triangles at lunchtime as punishment.

DREW DIAL RATING 11/10: When my dad tried to **PULL OUT** my grandad's tooth with the front door. My grandad had had toothache for two weeks but refused to see an actual dentist  because it was going to cost him £62.10 to get the tooth taken out. Grandad said he '*wasn't going to pay that much money to come out with fewer teeth than he went in with*'. So my dad agreed to tie some plastic wire round the *dodgy* tooth, attach it to the front door and **SLAM** it. They thought the tooth would just pop out painlessly. It didn't. The wind blew the door closed at the wrong moment. The tooth **CRACKED** and my grandad covered the downstairs carpet in blood. 

Which is why we are now saving for a new one (*carpet I mean, not a new grandad*). It cost him double to fix the tooth at the dentist after all that.



DREW DIAL RATING 10/10: Priya's mum's cat royal family. This started at **8/10** when she got a Maine Coon cat called Prince Charles to go with her collection of plates and teapots with the Queen's



face on them. But it is now a full on **10/10** since she added a very scratchy Prince William and then Kate Middleton to the cat family.

I heard Priya's mum talking about getting a Princess Beatrice and Prince George the last time I was over there. I am worried that she isn't going to stop until she has the full line of succession. At which point, let's be honest, the **DREW DIAL RATING** will be off the charts – **A SOLID 17/10**.

In the end I was rating things so often in my head that I couldn't get much else done. The ratings were in **DANGER** of taking **longer** than Troy's hair routine. So I decided it would be easiest to give everyone their own individual **DREW DIAL RATING**. Like an overall score. A bit like the way you score gymnastics at the Olympics. You only get **one** mark but it covers the **whole** performance. The somersaults, how well they can do the splits and whether or not they **conk** their head when landing the final backflip.

The **DREW DIAL RATING** is sort of the same I guess. One mark out of ten. Looking at the whole performance ... but at **LIFE** (*instead of gymnastics*). On a scale of **0**

to **10**, how likely is someone to **SAY** or **DO** something
that would be less sensible than *(for example)* . . .
an out-of-control camel?