

A Sound Around the House



'Kit?' I sit up in bed and look **around**. My cat is not here.

Kit sleeps on my **pillow** all night. **Now** the **pillow** just has a dent.

'Kit! Come **out now!**' I call **aloud**. No mew. Just a small thump under the bed. I peek under it. No cat.





I run **outside** to the gate. 'Kit!' I **shout** up the path. 'Kit!' I **shout down** the path.

A bird looks at me. A dog looks at me. But no cat.

Then a wee mew **sounds** close by. I spin **around**. Just the fence.

I check Kit's nap spot,
the big blue pot in the
yard. Kit naps on top
of that pot all day. All.
Day. Long. But **now**
the lid is empty. I tap
on it, just in case. 'Kit?
Come **out**, come **out**!'
No mew. That sly cat
has a plan.





I look all **around** the
pot. **Round** and **round**
I go. I even look under
the pot. But a pot has
no under! 'This is bad,'
I say with a **frown**.
'This is bad, bad, bad!'
I **howl**. Then a soft,
soft hum comes from
close by.

I run to the back and put my arms deep into the big shrub by the porch. Leaves go up my arms. A sharp twig scrapes my cheek.

'Kit! Come **out now!**' I **growl** into the shrub.

Kit is not in the shrub. But **now** I am one big leaf mess.





'Mew!'

There it is! I run to the front and stop. I am on the **lookout**, like a spy. Up? **Down?** The **sound bounces** all **around** me. I spin, and spin, and spin.

'My cat tracking is no good today,' I groan.

Back in my bedroom, I
crouch down low by
the wood box. 'Kit likes
small dark spots,' I say.
'Kit could be under
there with a smug grin.'
I put my cheek on the
rug and peek into the
dark gap. Dust. One
lost sock. No cat.





I drag my blue stool
and get up to check the
top of the wood box.

More dust. My lost book
from three weeks back.
But no Kit.

'I look high. I look **low**. I
look in a shrub,' I say.
'Where can that cat be
now?'

I check the bookshelf. I look at each toy on my shelf, one by one.

'Come **out**, Kit! This is not a game **now**,' I **shout**.

Well, it is a bit like a game. A bad, **grouchy** sort of game.

I flop into my seat and put my face in my hands.





Wait. I need to check under my bed one more time. I **crouch down** by my bed and peek under it. That spot is like Kit's **own** little den. She even has a dust nest under there. I peek deep into the dark. Empty.

I stand up and **frown**.
No cat in the yard. No
cat in the **house**. No cat
high or **low**, or in the
shrub. 'That is it,' I say. 'I
need help. I need Mum. I
need a **lookout owl** with
cat-spy **powers.**' I turn
to my bed to sit and
think. And then I see it.





A **mound**. A warm, **round mound** under my blanket, with a **low** hum coming from it. I lift the blanket, and **wow**. There is Kit, curled up snug, with my sun specs on her face. My sun specs! 'Kit!' I **shout**, and I lift her up and put my face in her soft fur. 'Here all this time!' Kit just curls back up. That smug, smug cat.



A Sound Around the House

A cat named Kit has vanished from her favourite pillow, and no matter where a child looks, the meows keep bouncing from somewhere out of sight. Yard, bush, bookshelf, even under the bed, all turn up empty. Where in the world could that sneaky cat be hiding? Written for Jolly Phonics classrooms (Step 3, Unit 9: /ou/ mixed), this book practises words like 'shout', 'crouch', 'frown', 'growl' and 'sound'.

Phonics Focus: <mixed>

aloud, around, bounces, crouch, down, frown, grouchy, growl, house, howl, lookout, low, mound, now, out, outside, owl, own, pillow, powers, round, shout, sound, sounds, wow

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