

The Cat Is Hiding!



Joy sat up in bed. She felt **restless** right away. Kit was gone.

Kit had been right there on her pillow last night. Now there was just a Kit-shaped dent and one white whisker.

'Kit, where are you?' Joy called. No answer. Just a tiny thump from under the bed. But when Joy leaned over to look, nothing was there.





Joy ran to the yard gate. 'Kit!' she called up the path. 'Kit!' she called down the path. No cat. Then a tiny 'mew' came from right behind her. She spun around. But all she saw was the fence. Joy was **clueless**.

Joy ran to the big blue pot in the yard. That pot was Kit's **peaceful** spot. She slept on top of it every single day. Every. Single. Day. But the lid was empty. Joy gave the lid a tap just in case. 'Kit? Are you in the pot?' Nothing. Nothing at all. That cat was up to something.





Joy looked behind the pot.
She looked beside the pot.
She even looked under the
pot, which was **pointless**.

A pot sits flat on the
grass! 'This is **dreadful**!'

Joy said. 'This is **frightful**!'

This is the worst morning
of my life!' Then a soft
purr came from very
close by. Very, very close.

Joy ran to the back of the house and pushed her arms into the big bush by the porch. Leaves went up her sleeves and a twig poked her cheek. 'Kit, if you are in this bush, you are in a big mess!' Kit was not in the bush. But Joy came out covered in leaves, which was not **helpful** at all.





'Mew!' There it was again! Joy ran back up to the house and tilted her head to one side. She was on the hunt. She stood very still. Where was the sound? Up? Down? Left? Joy spun around three times and felt dizzy. 'My cat radar is **useless** today,' she groaned.

Joy gave up and rushed back inside. She got down on her hands and knees beside the big cabinet. 'Kit loves small, dark spots,' Joy told herself. 'She is probably wedged under it, just grinning at me.' Joy pressed her cheek to the floor and peered into the gap. Dust. One lost sock. Zero cats. How **hopeless!**





Joy dragged over her blue stool and climbed up to check the top of the cabinet. The hunt felt **endless**. More dust. A rubber band. An old book. No Kit. 'I have looked high. I have looked low. I have looked in a bush,' Joy said. 'Where can Kit be?'

Joy went to the bookshelf. One by one, she took each book down. No Kit. No Kit. No Kit. 'Come on, Kit. This is not funny.' Well. Maybe a tiny bit funny. Just a little bit. But mostly not. Joy sank into her blue seat with a **woeful** sigh and put her head in her hands.





Wait. There was one spot Joy had not checked. Joy crouched down beside her bed and peered under it. Kit treated that spot like her own private room. She even kept a **handful** of dust bunnies under there. Joy felt **hopeful**. She squinted into the dark. Empty.

Joy stood up and put her hands on her hips. She felt **helpless**. She had checked the yard, the house, and even inside a bush. 'That is it,' Joy said. 'I need Mum. I need a jet with spotlights. I need a tracking dog. I need a robot with cat-finding lasers!' Joy walked back to her bed to sit down and think. And that was when she saw it.





A lump. A soft, purring, cat-shaped lump, right under the blanket. Joy lifted the corner and there was Kit. Curled up. Cosy. Joy's sunglasses sat on Kit's head. Kit looked like a tiny film star on holiday. 'Kit!' Joy scooped her up and pressed her face into Kit's fur. 'You were right there all that time?' Joy was so **grateful** she did not even mind. Kit yawned. **Blissful.**



The Cat Is Hiding!

Joy wakes up and her cat Kit is missing. She searches the yard, checks Kit's favourite pot, and even braves a leafy bush, but the cat is nowhere to be found. Growing restless and clueless, Joy keeps hearing tiny meows from every direction. Will she ever track down her sneaky, hiding cat? Created to align with the UFLI Foundations scope and sequence (Lesson 102: -less, -ful), this book practises words like 'restless', 'clueless', 'hopeless', 'grateful', 'helpful'.

Phonics Focus: -less, -ful

blissful, clueless, dreadful, endless, frightful, grateful, handful, helpful, helpless, hopeful, hopeless, peaceful, pointless, restless, useless, woeful

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