My Pet Kids

I am a cat. This is my home. Three kids and Mom live with me too.

Today, one of my kids is on the rug, **drawing** me. She did not get my tail quite right, but I will not fuss.

The people think this is their home. They think I am their pet. They are wrong.

Many think the best way to get clean is to jump in a big tub of water. They are wrong.

I lick my **paws** and I am clean. No soap, no fuss, no splashing.

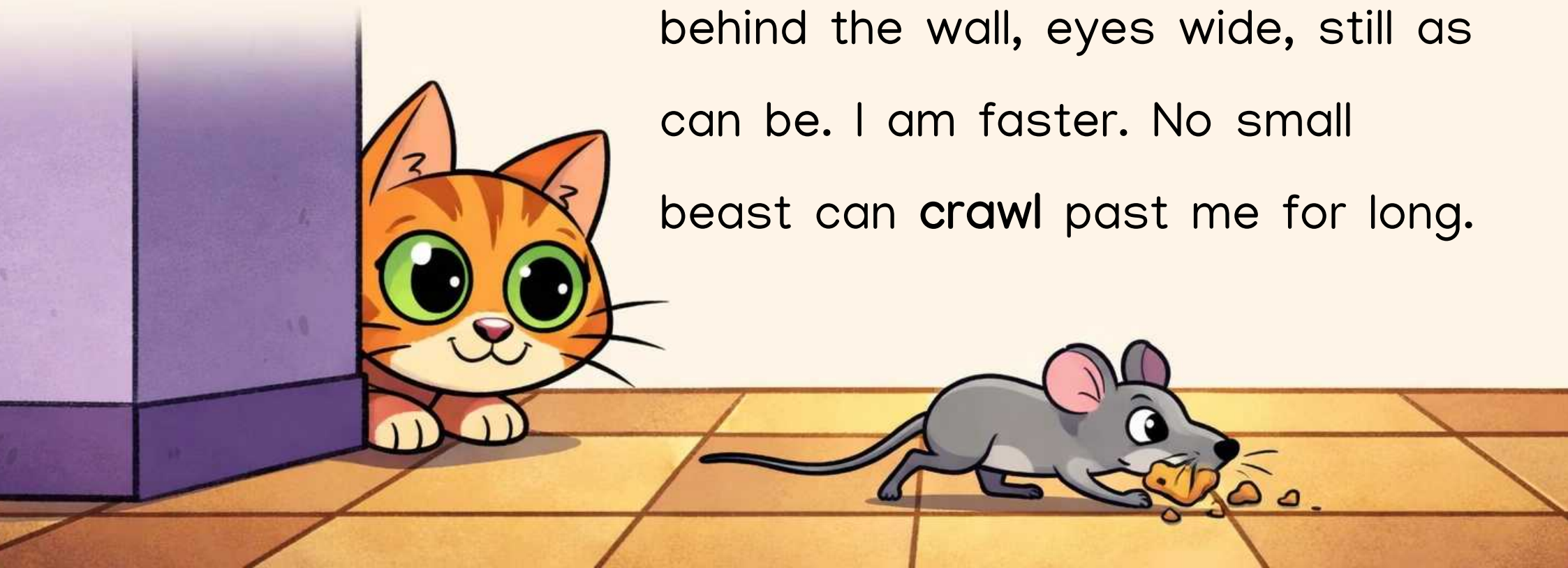
In the yard, one of my kids drags a muddy dog into a tub. That silly dog kicks and splashes. I would never make such a mess.

The best spot for a nap is on the lap of one of my pets. I roll into a ball on my belly. All three kids pat me and give me a cuddle.

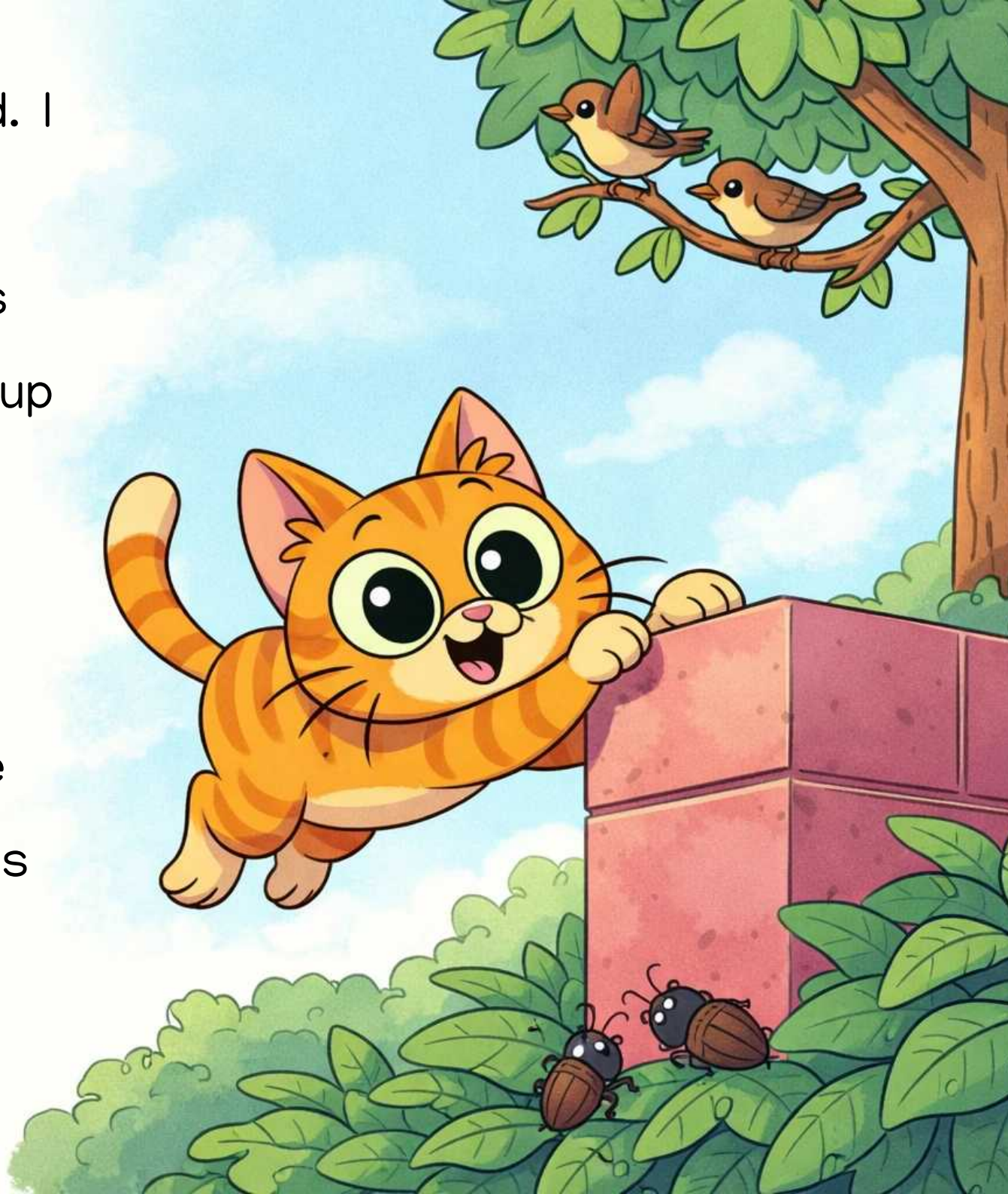
They think they are being kind to me. Really, I have **taught** them well. I like living in this home.

Sometimes the kids are pests. They smash things and make a big mess. But every morning, Mom packs their bags, hands them their lunches, and waves them off at the gate. Then the home is mine. I stretch on the ledge above the porch, give a big **yawn**, and plan my day.

Some think a small beast is too fast for a cat to catch. They are wrong. I spot one sneaking across the kitchen floor with bits of food in its **jaws.** I hide low behind the wall, eyes wide, still as can be. I am faster. No small beast can **crawl** past me for long.



I love to play in my yard. I leap and jump on everything, because it is all mine. Today I spring up on the low wall and dig my **claws** into the edge. Beetles dart under the leaves. Birds hop on the branches above. There is never a dull moment in my yard.



Mom does not like it when I bring things in. Today I **haul** in a snail and hold it up in my **paws** by the window.

Mom throws her hands up and gasps. One of the kids peeks from behind her, trying not to giggle.

Mom thinks bugs are yucky, but she is wrong. This is my home, and I can bring in what I want.

There is a **naughty** kid next door. He is mean and smelly. Every time he spots me, he pulls a face.

I hiss and show my teeth. He thinks he can get away with all this because he is bigger than me. But he is wrong, and one day I will show him.

One day, I am going to grow as big as a tiger. I will have sharp **claws** and big sharp fangs. Then I will march next door and smash that kid's fence. I can see it all. No one will ever tell me to stay away again.

Some cats think it is better to live in the yard. Three of them sit on my ledge, peeking in through the glass. They are wrong. I am curled up warm at the foot of my kid's bed, and I tuck my **paws** under me. I love my home, and I love my pet kids. Nothing will ever change that.

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My Pet Kids

A cat is convinced this house belongs to her, not the other way around. She has her three kids well trained, from cuddle time to breakfast duty, and there's a naughty boy next door who won't stop pulling faces at her over the fence. What will this clever cat do about him? Created to align with the UFLI Foundations scope and sequence (Lesson 93: au, aw, augh /aw/), this book practices words like 'paws', 'claws', 'jaws', 'naughty', 'yawn'.

Phonics Focus: au, aw, augh /aw/

claws, crawl, drawing, haul, jaws, naughty, paws, taught, yawn

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