They Are
Not The Boss

I am a cat. This is my home.

A **girl** sits on the rug. She sketches my **fur** and my whiskers. People think this is their home and I am their pet. They are wrong.

People think a big tub is the best spot to get clean. They are wrong. I lick my **fur** and I am clean. No tub for me. The dog is muddy and full of **dirt.** He **squirms** and splashes in the tub.

The best place to nap is on a lap. I **curl** up, and the kids pat my soft **fur.**

They think they are kind to me. Well, I like it in this home.

Every morning, Mom hands the kids their backpacks. She waves at the gate, and one kid **turns** and waves back.

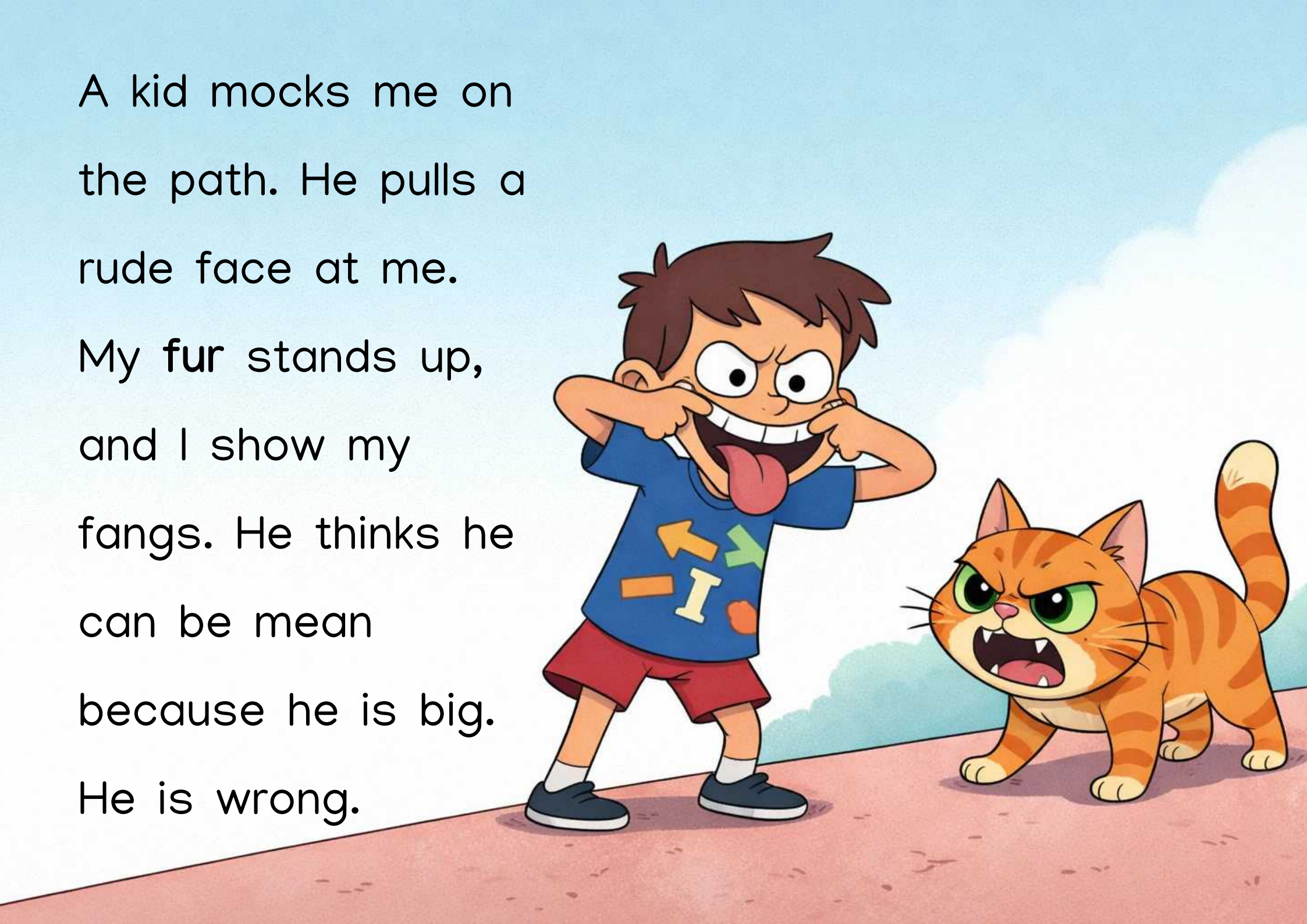
Then the home is all mine. I stretch on the ledge over the porch and plan my time.

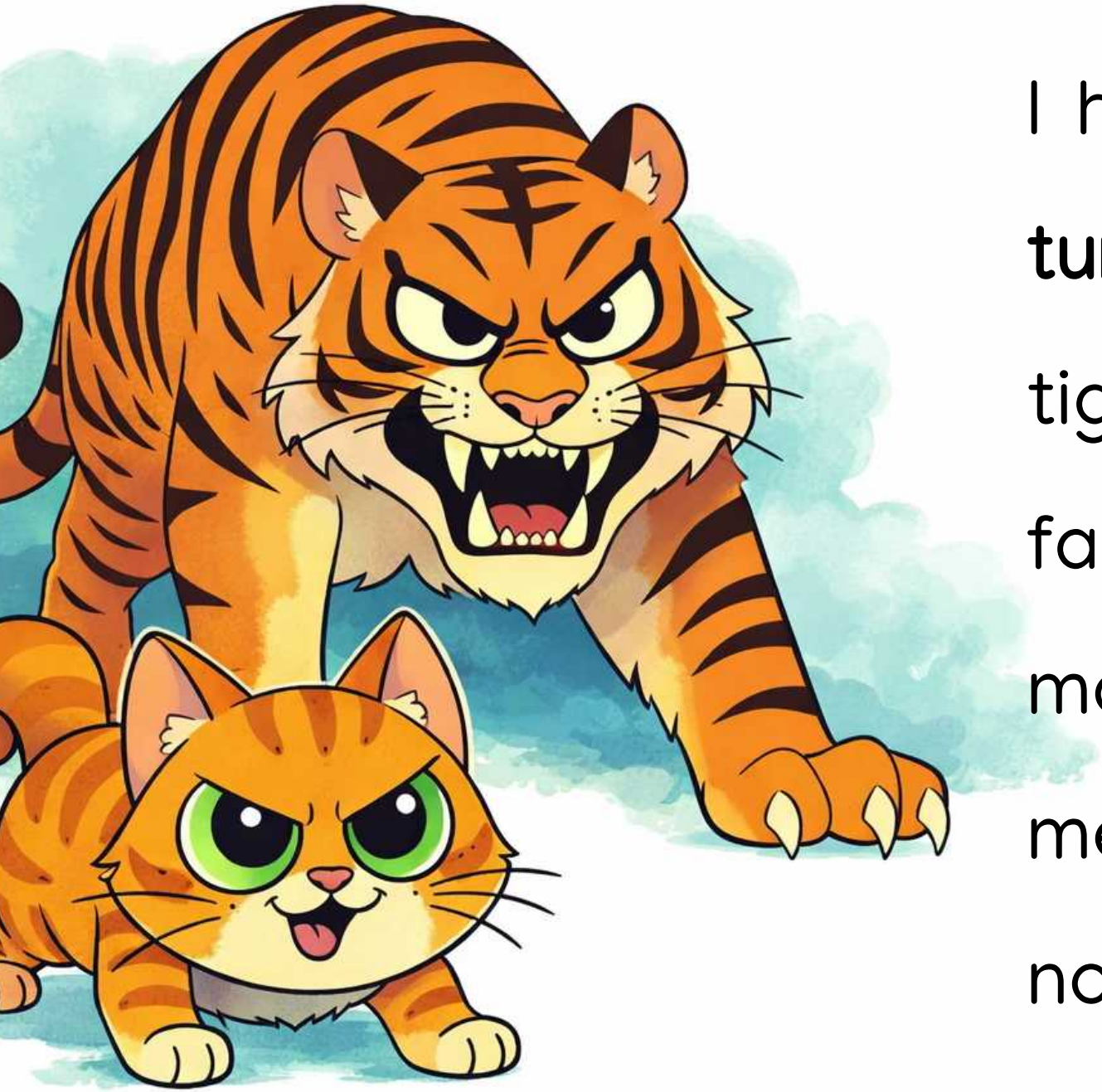
A pest darts over the tiles with a scrap. I **lurk** at the corner. I do not **stir** one whisker. People think a pest is fast. Well, I am faster. No pest can get past me.

I spring up on the wall and grip the edge. Bugs **squirm** under the plants, and **birds chirp** on the branch. This yard is all mine. It is never dull in my yard.

I bring a pest in and set it by the sill. Mom gasps in shock. 'A pest!' she **blurts.** A kid **smirks** behind her. Mom thinks pests are bad. She is wrong. This is my home.

A kid mocks me on the path. He pulls a rude face at me. My **fur** stands up, and I show my fangs. He thinks he can be mean because he is big. He is wrong.





I have a plan. I will **turn** into a huge tiger with big sharp fangs. Then I will march up to that mean kid. He will not mock me then.

It is dark. Cats sit on the sill and look in the glass. They think the yard is the best place. They are wrong.

I **curl** up snug on the bed by my kid. I like my home, and I like my pet kids. Nothing can change that.

81

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A cat rules this house, no matter what the people think. When a girl sketches its fur, when a dog squirms in the tub, when a mischievous pest sneaks across the tiles, this clever cat always has a plan. But when the mean kid next door pulls a face and smirks, will this cat finally show him who's really the boss around here? Created to align with the UFLI Foundations scope and sequence (Lesson 81: ir, ur /er/), this book practices words like 'fur', 'curl', 'chirp', 'smirks', 'turn'.

Phonics Focus: ir, ur /er/

birds, blurts, chirp, curl, dirt, fur, girl, lurk, smirks, squirm, squirms, stir, turn, turns

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