This Is My House

I am a cat. This is my home. Kids live here, too. Three kids and a mom. **Now** one kid is flat on the rug, making art. She is making me! She does not get my nose right, but I will not fuss. They think this is their home and I am their pet. They are wrong.

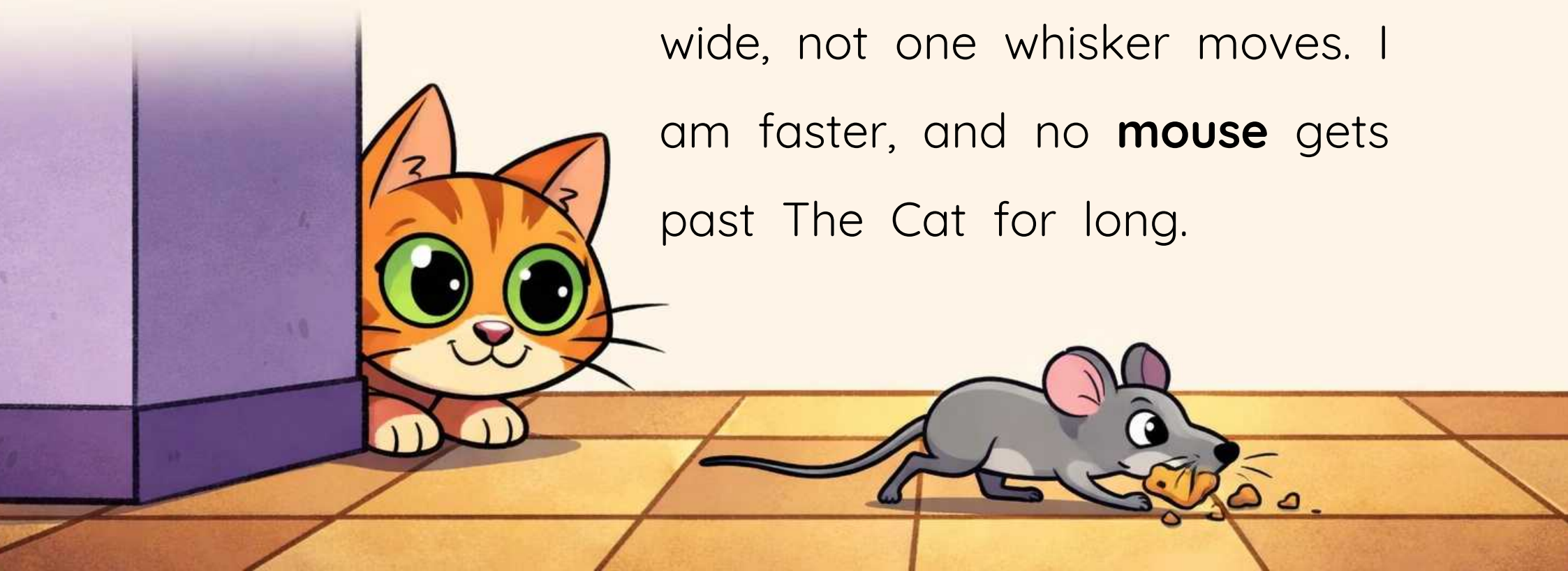
Many think the best way to get clean is to sit in a big tub. They are wrong. I lick my paws and I am spotless. No soap, no fuss. **Out** in the yard, a kid tugs a muddy dog into a tub. That silly dog splashes all **around.** What a mess. I would never mess up like that.

The best place to nap is on a pet's lap. I curl into a **round** ball, roll onto my belly, and let all three kids pat me. They think they are being kind. But I have them trained well. I like living in this home so much.

The kids can be noisy, and at times they mess up my home. But Mom always packs their lunch and hands **out** the bags in the morning. She waves at the gate. Then the home is mine. I stretch **out** on the ledge up on the porch, watch them go, and plan my day.

Some think a **mouse** is too fast to catch. They are wrong.

I spot a cheeky **mouse** sneak past with crumbs in its **mouth.** I **crouch low** by the wall, eyes wide, not one whisker moves. I am faster, and no **mouse** gets past The Cat for long.



I go **out** to play in my yard. I leap and climb, because it is all mine. Today I spring up on the **low** wall and grip the edge with my sharp nails. Bugs hide **down** under the leaves, and birds hop up in the tree. It is always fun **out** here.

Mom does not like it when I bring things in. **Now** I carry in a snail and set it by the **window.** Mom **throws** her hands up and **frowns** at me. One kid peeks **out** from behind her and hides a grin. Mom thinks bugs are dirty and bad. She is wrong. This is my home, and I bring in what I want.

A bad boy lives next home. He is mean and smelly. When he sees me, he pulls a face and mocks me. I **growl** and **show** my teeth. He thinks he can win because he is big. He is wrong. One day I will **show** him.

One day I will **grow** as big as a tiger, with sharp nails and big, sharp fangs. Then I will march next home and mess up that kid's home. I can see it **now.** No one will put 'keep **out'** on my fence.

Some cats think it is best to live **out** there. I can see three cats right **now,** sitting on the sill, peeking in. They are wrong. I am curled up warm on my kid's bed, in the soft dark. I like my home and my pet kids so much. That will not change.

MIXED

This Is My House

A cat rules this house, no matter what its silly pet family thinks. Between watching them off to school each morning and hunting a cheeky mouse in the kitchen, there's plenty to guard and even more to boss around. What happens when a mean boy next door pushes his luck one time too many? Written for Jolly Phonics classrooms (Step 3, Unit 9: /ou/ mixed), this book practices words like 'crouch', 'growl', 'mouth', 'round', 'frowns'.

Phonics Focus: <mixed>

around, crouch, down, frowns, grow, growl, low, mouse, mouth, now, out, round, show, throws, window

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