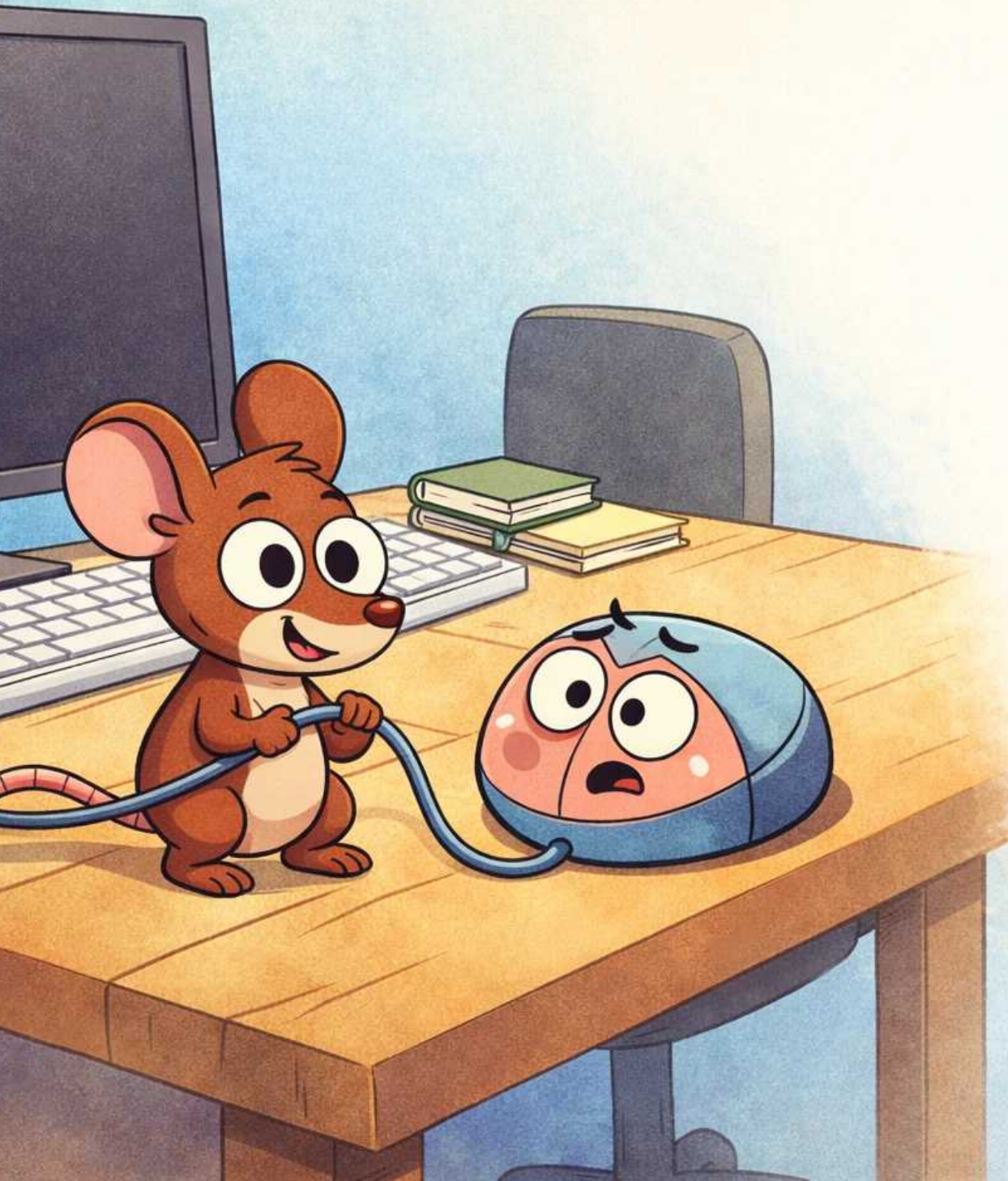


My Tie Bites!



Pip the mouse **spies** the perfect house. The window is not shut. The room **inside** is dark. Best of all, no one is home. 'No cats,' says Pip, soft and low. He sniffs. 'No dogs. No one at all. Just me.' He creeps along the sill and peeks in.

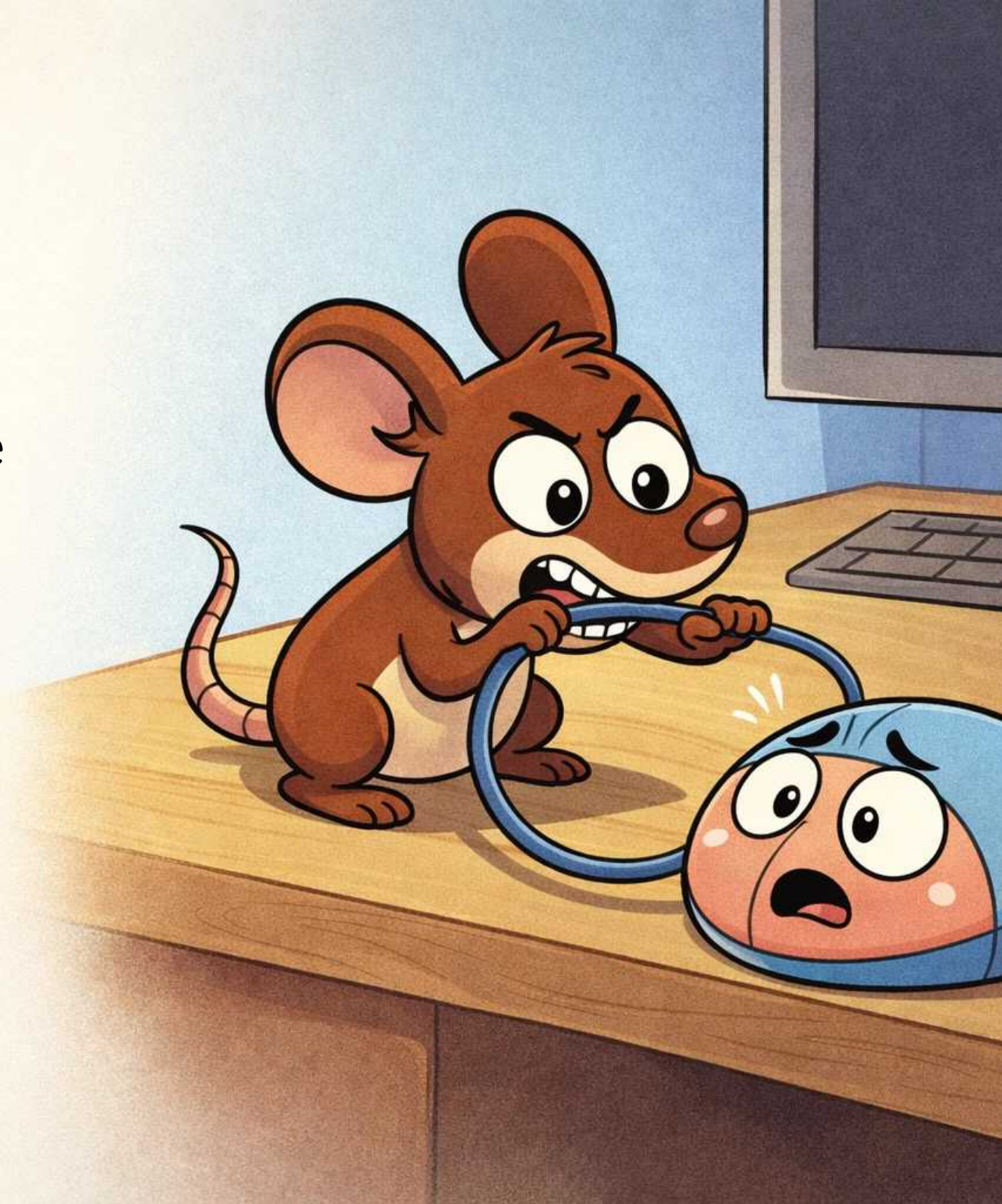




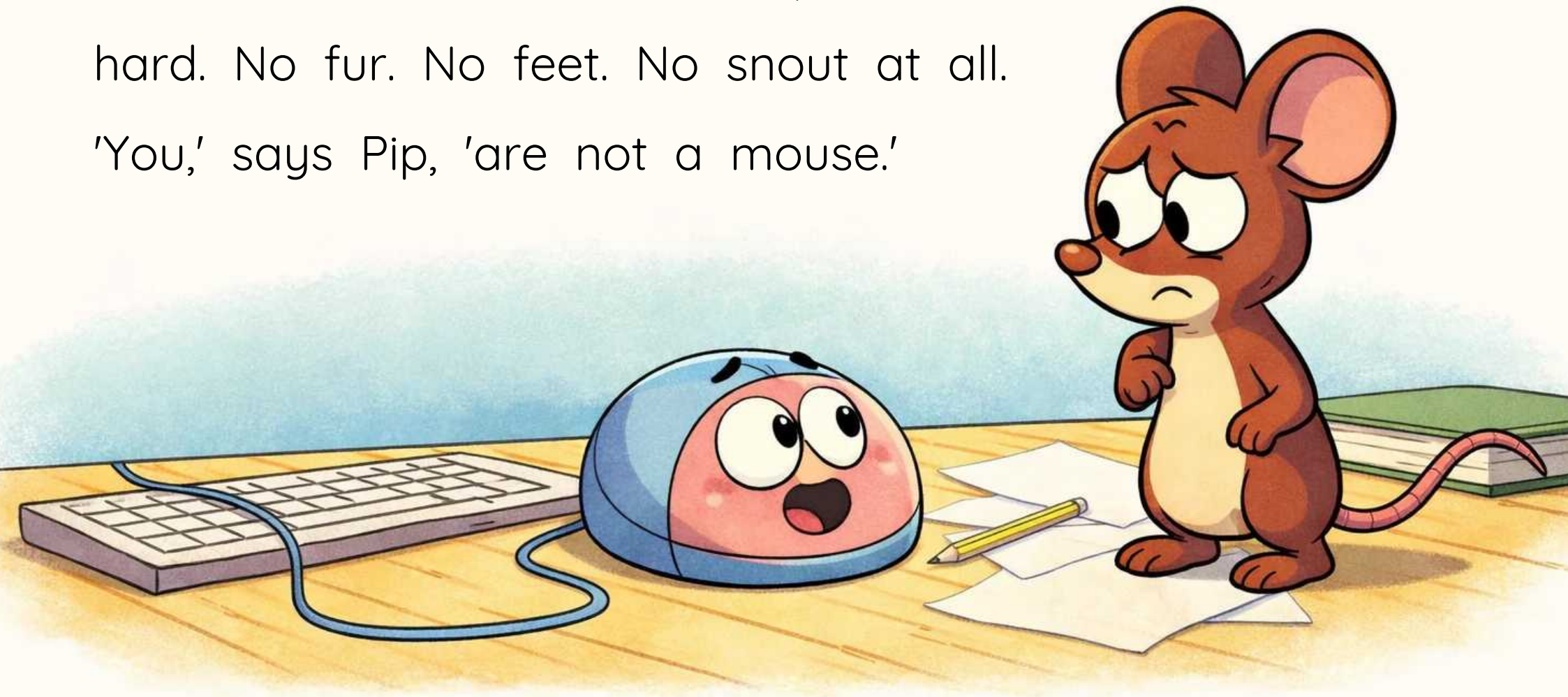
Pip hops onto the desk.
Pens. Sheets. A big
bright screen. Then he
spots it. A cord, thick
and long, trailing on the
desk. 'Oooh,' says Pip,
gripping it **tight**. 'I can
tie things shut with this.
This **might** be the best
cord ever!' He tugs hard.
He yanks harder.

The cord will not shift. So Pip does what any smart mouse would do. He **bites** it. Crunch!

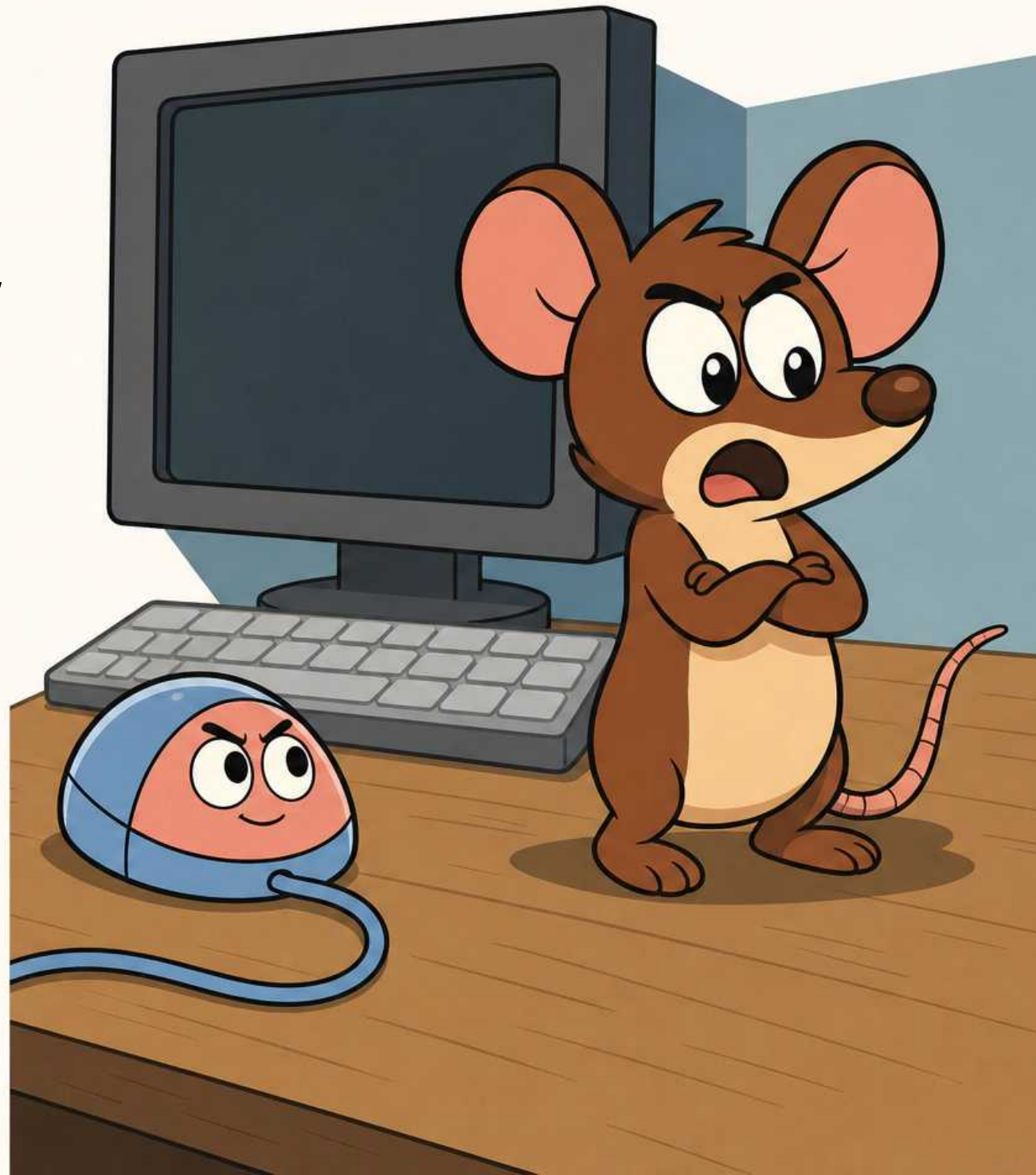
'Ow!' **cries** a **tiny** voice. 'Ow, ow, ow! That is **my** tail, you silly peanut!'



Pip spins round. There on the desk sits a small, round, very cross thing with a cord for a tail. '**My** name is Click,' it **cries**, 'and I am a mouse.' Pip looks hard. No fur. No feet. No snout at all. 'You,' says Pip, 'are not a mouse.'



'I am a mouse!' yells Click.
'I click! I surf the web! I
can get stuff no mouse
can get! Can you do that?'
'I can chew a hole in a
wall,' says Pip. 'Well, I can
have forty-seven tabs up
at one **time,**' says Click.
'That is a **lie,**' says Pip.
'You need me,' says Click.
'I can tell. You look like a
mouse who needs help.'





'Fine,' says Pip. 'Can you get me food? I am so hungry.'

'That is a snap!' says Click.

'And the cat,' Pip adds, soft and low. 'A big cat lives here. Can you help me **hide** from the cat?' Click puffs up, very proud. '**Hide?** That cat will take one look at me and flee!' Pip looks at Click. Click is as big as a peanut.

'Yes,' Pip **sighs**. 'Yes it will.'

Then, from the dark,
comes a low growl.
Pad, pad, pad. Huge
soft feet. The cat is
here. It is not a small
cat. It looks at Pip the
way Pip looks at cake.
Its yellow gaze glows
in the dark. Each nail
taps on the desk.
'Click!' Pip squeaks in
fright. 'Click, do
something quick!'





The cat lunges. Pip dodges left. The cat swipes. Pip dodges **right**. 'Click! You said the cat would run!' 'I am on it!' yells Click. 'Just wait one tick!' 'I can not wait one tick!' The cat's nails rake the desk. Sheets **fly**. Pip runs for his **life**.

Then the screen **lights** up.

A huge, loud, mean dog barks out from it. 'Woof! Woof! Woof!' The cat

freezes. Its gaze goes **wide**. Its fur puffs up.

Then it bolts from the desk and zooms out so fast it skids. Click sits **by** the **type** pad, very proud.

'Forty-seven tabs,' says Click. 'I told you so.'





Pip picks Click up and hugs that silly little mouse so **tight** its cord swings back and forth. 'You,' says Pip, 'are the oddest mouse I have ever met.' 'The best mouse,' says Click. Pip grins. 'Yes. The best mouse.'



My Tie Bites!

Pip the mouse spies the perfect house: dark, empty, and just right for one small mouse to explore. Then a tiny voice cries out from under his teeth, and a strange round creature with a cord for a tail insists it's a mouse too. Now a hungry cat is prowling nearby, and Pip needs help hiding fast, but can he trust this odd little helper, or is he on his own? Written for Jolly Phonics classrooms (Step 3, Unit 6: /ie/ mixed), this book practices words like 'tie', 'cries', 'tight', 'fright', 'sighs'.

Phonics Focus: <mixed>

bites, bright, by, cries, fly, fright, hide, inside, lie, life, lights, might, my, right, sighs, spies, tie, tight, time, tiny, type, wide

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