

the  
**Cat**





# the Cat



Illustrations and story  
© Dave Bell 1992/2004

The children all huddled together in silence after Mrs. Squeeker read the final pages of today's story. “I have never seen a real Cat before”, squeaked Myles.



“Neither have we”, piped the others.



“Cats are very dangerous”, said Mrs Squeaker.  
“They have a very whiskery nose, large sharp teeth, long pointed claws, a big round belly, quick bouncy legs and a long curly tail. We mice must be very careful”.

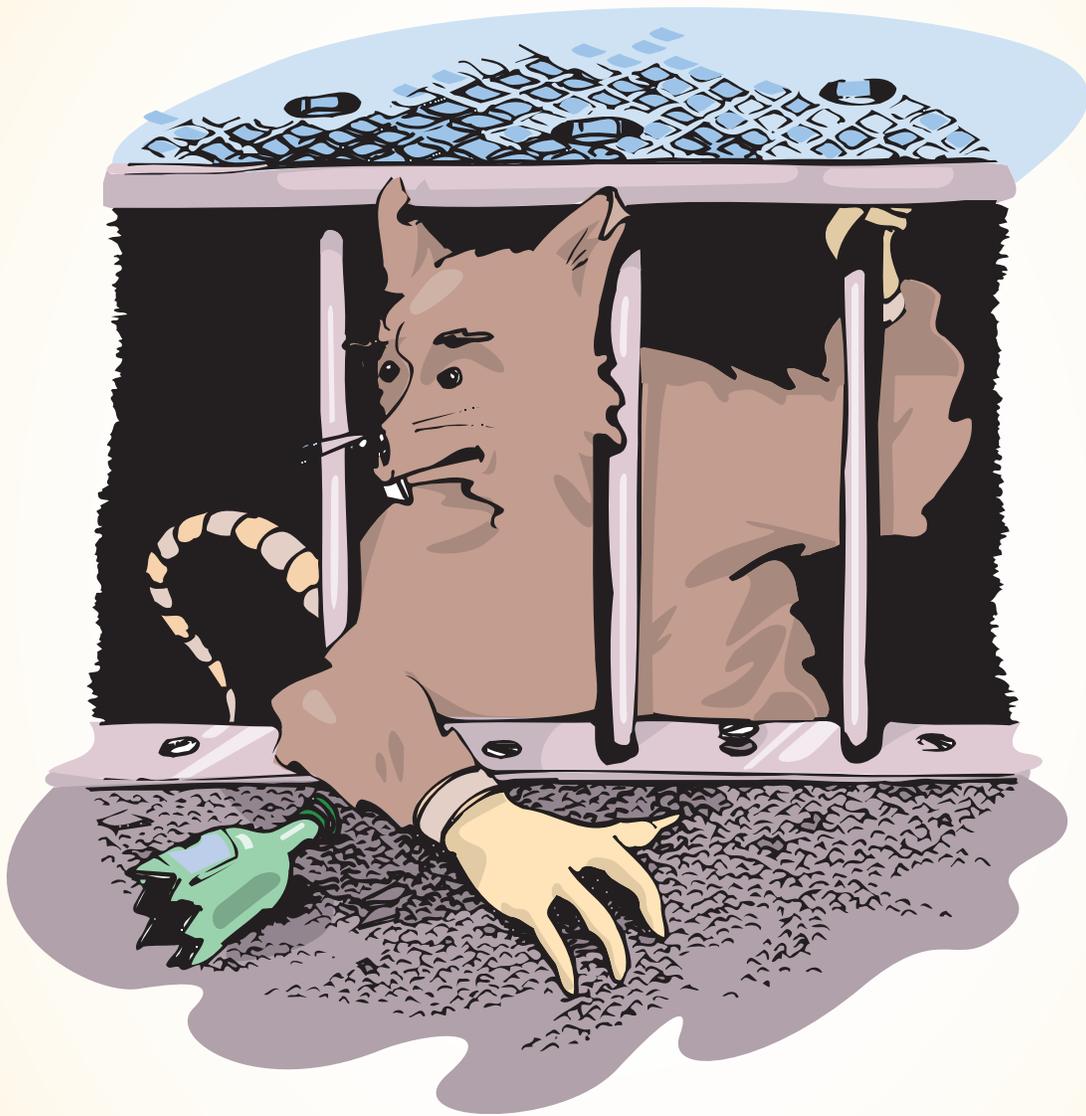


“ This old broom straw must be just like the cats very whiskery nose” piped Peter. “ Lets make one so we can see what a dangerous Cat looks like”. “Then we can always be careful”.



All the children set out to find pieces to build the Cat. Rita was quick to begin and first to find her piece.

Rita knew she had seen something that looked like very sharp teeth right out of the main street window.



“This broken bottle must be just like the long sharp teeth”, thought Rita, “and it looks pretty dangerous to me”.

Tina also found what she was looking for.



“ I can see the whole back yard from the top of this fence” she said. And that gave her an idea.

"These old nails must be like the long pointed claws", she thought. Maybe a wiggle wiggle here and a wiggle wiggle there.



Tina worked a few of the loose nails free and took them home.

Now it was Timothy's turn to put on  
his thinking cap.



Timothy looked all around the yard.  
“Just what can I find to make a big round belly?”

Well Timothy's nose, knows. Nobody knows a nose like Timothy's nose, and that nose always shows Timothy where he goes. It is a very special nose I suppose.



"This old tin can would make a good belly for the Cat". And Timothy rolled the can home.

Myles has always been a very clever boy.  
"Just what am I going to do about the legs",  
thought Myles. "Strong, bouncy legs". He  
had to think and use his imagination.  
Hmmmmm.

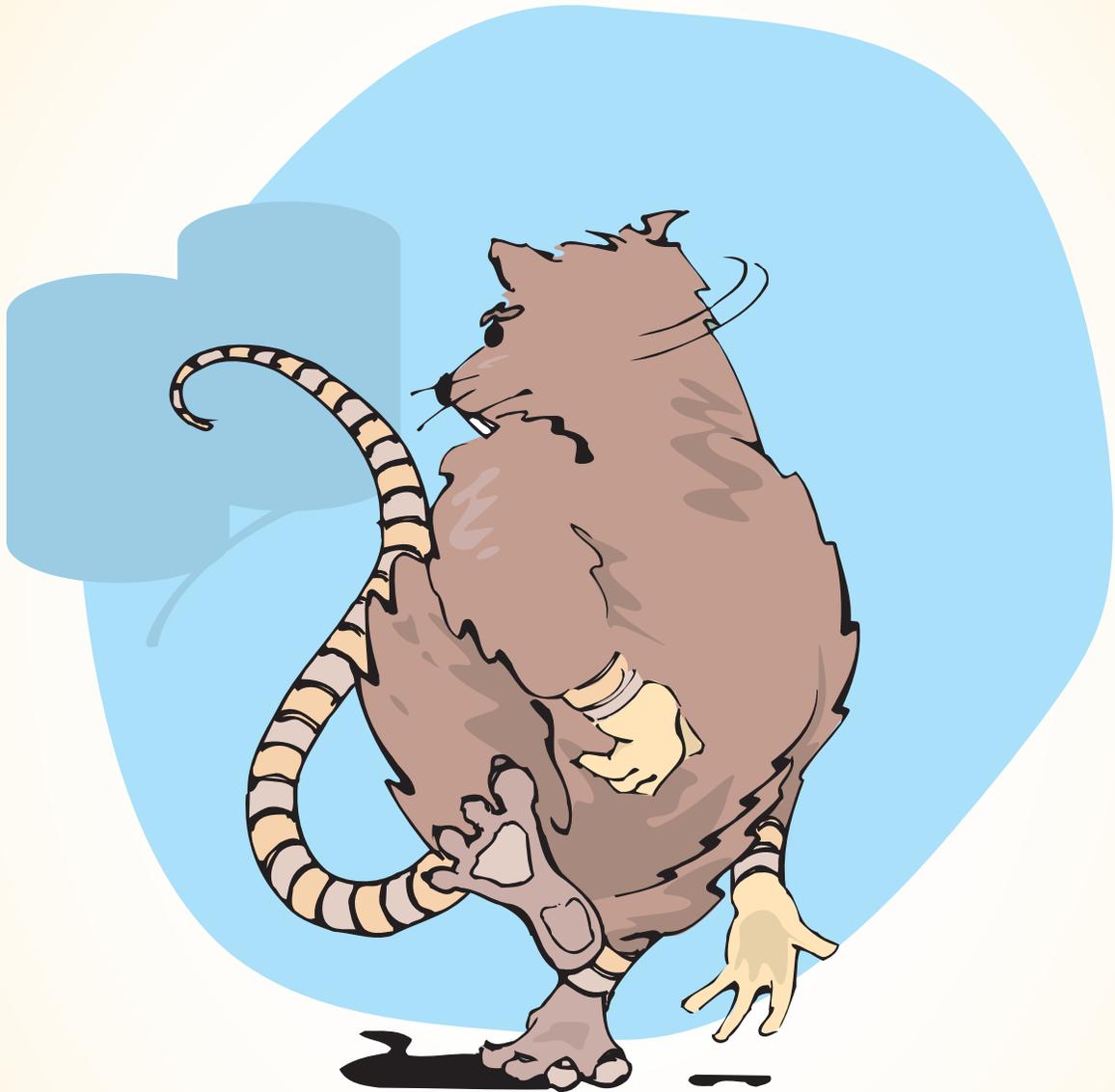


His little problem was solved when Myles found some broken mattress springs in a near by ally.



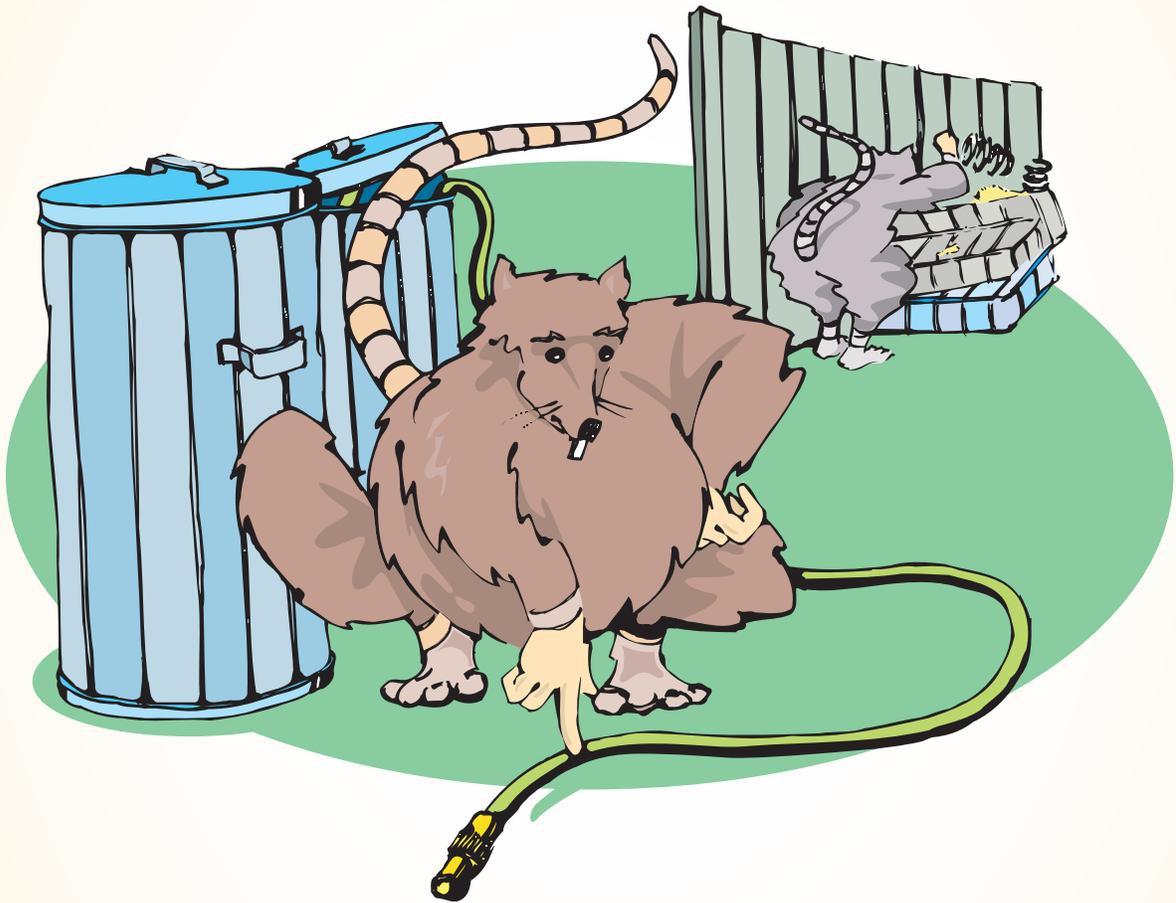
“Perfect”, shouted Myles. “These old mattress springs are strong and certainly bouncy. This must be like the legs of a cat”.

Just as Myles found his pieces,  
Cindy saw hers.



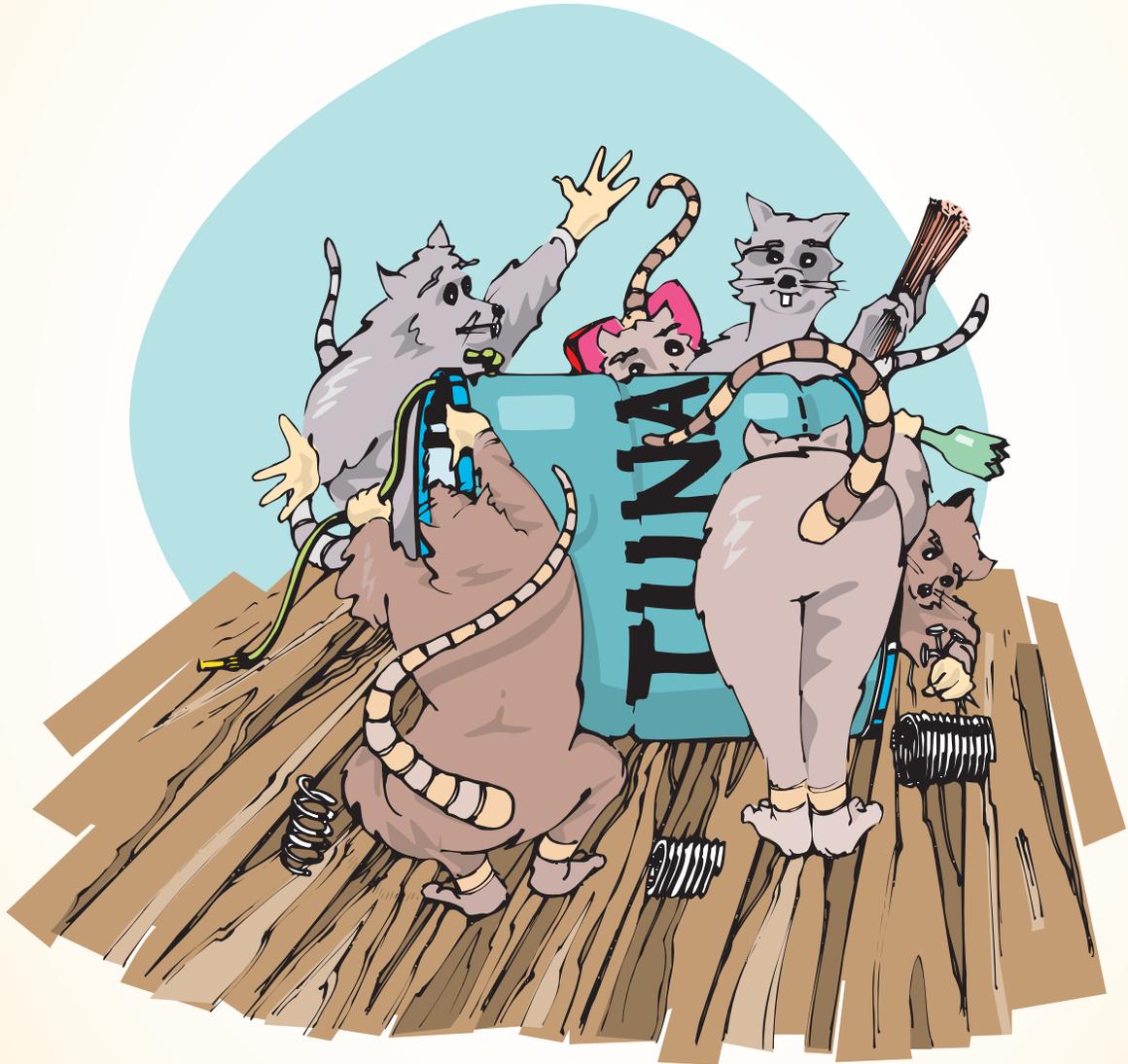
“Wait a minute”! “What is that thing over  
by those large cans”, she thought. So Cindy  
decided to have a closer look.

She hurried over to the waste bins and discovered just the right thing. It was the last peice they needed.

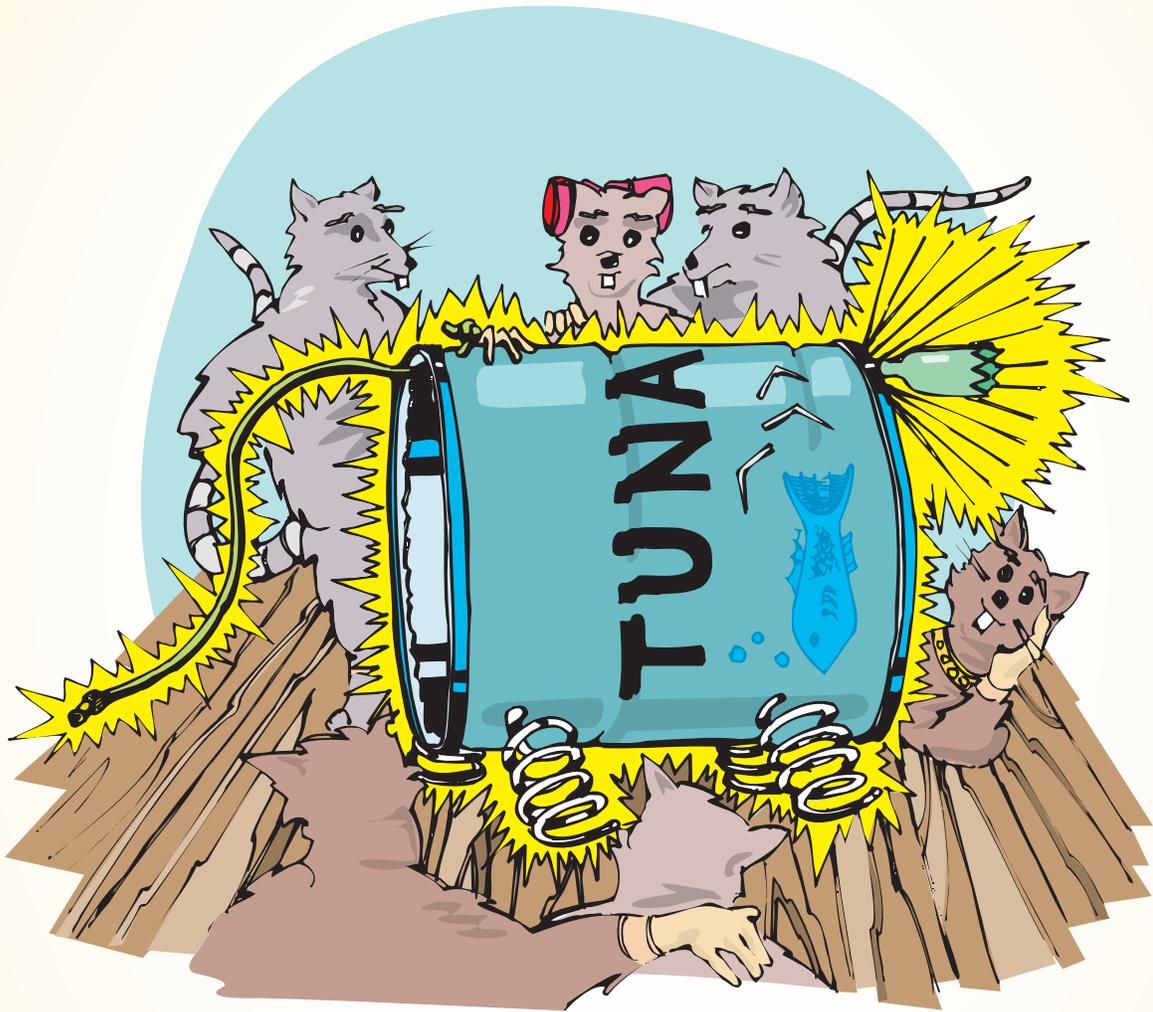


"This old hose must be like a Cats tail", she said. Cindy dragged the hose home.

When all the pieces were gathered, all the children worked together and helped to put their Cat together.

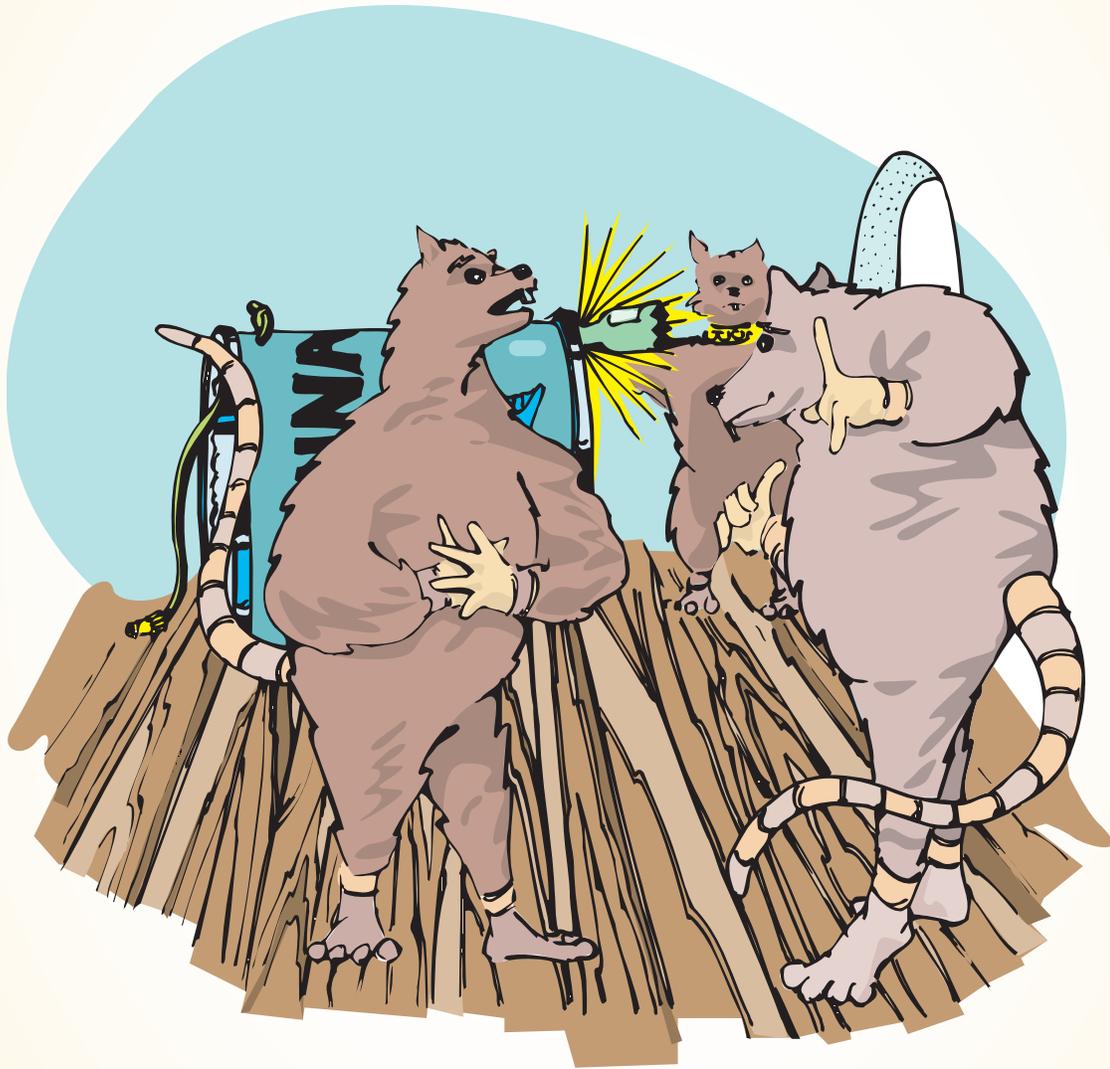


Soon all the pieces were in place and they all stood back to admire their work.



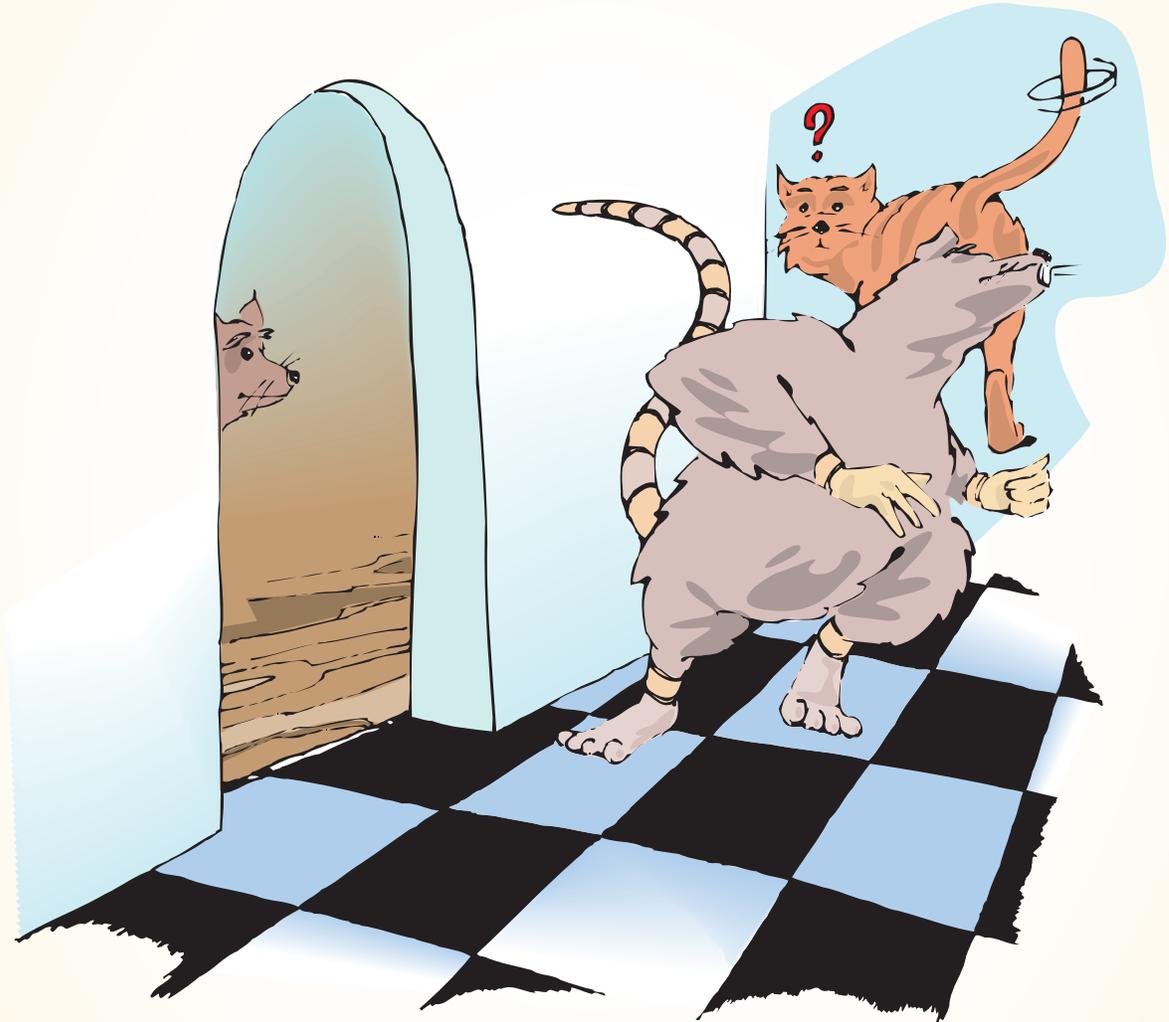
"WOW, this is a scary beast", they said.  
"We must be very careful never to go  
near anything that looks like that".

Nothing is more satisfying than a job well done. Unless you count the feeling you have after your favorite snack.



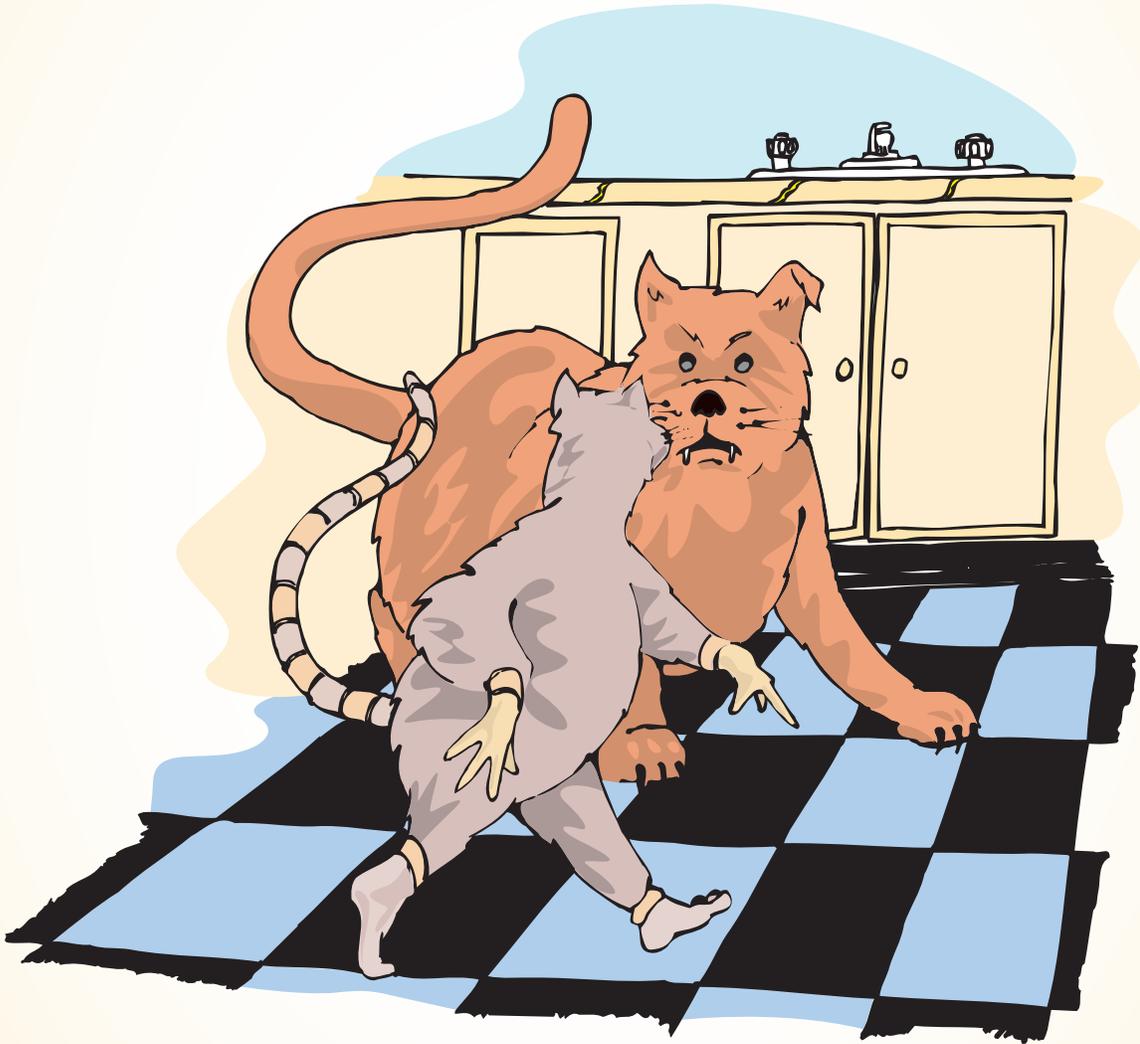
All that searching and building made the children very hungry, "I'll go get us some cheese", volunteered Timothy.

So off he ran. Through the main door,  
across the checkered floor, and into the  
kitchen where the food is kept.



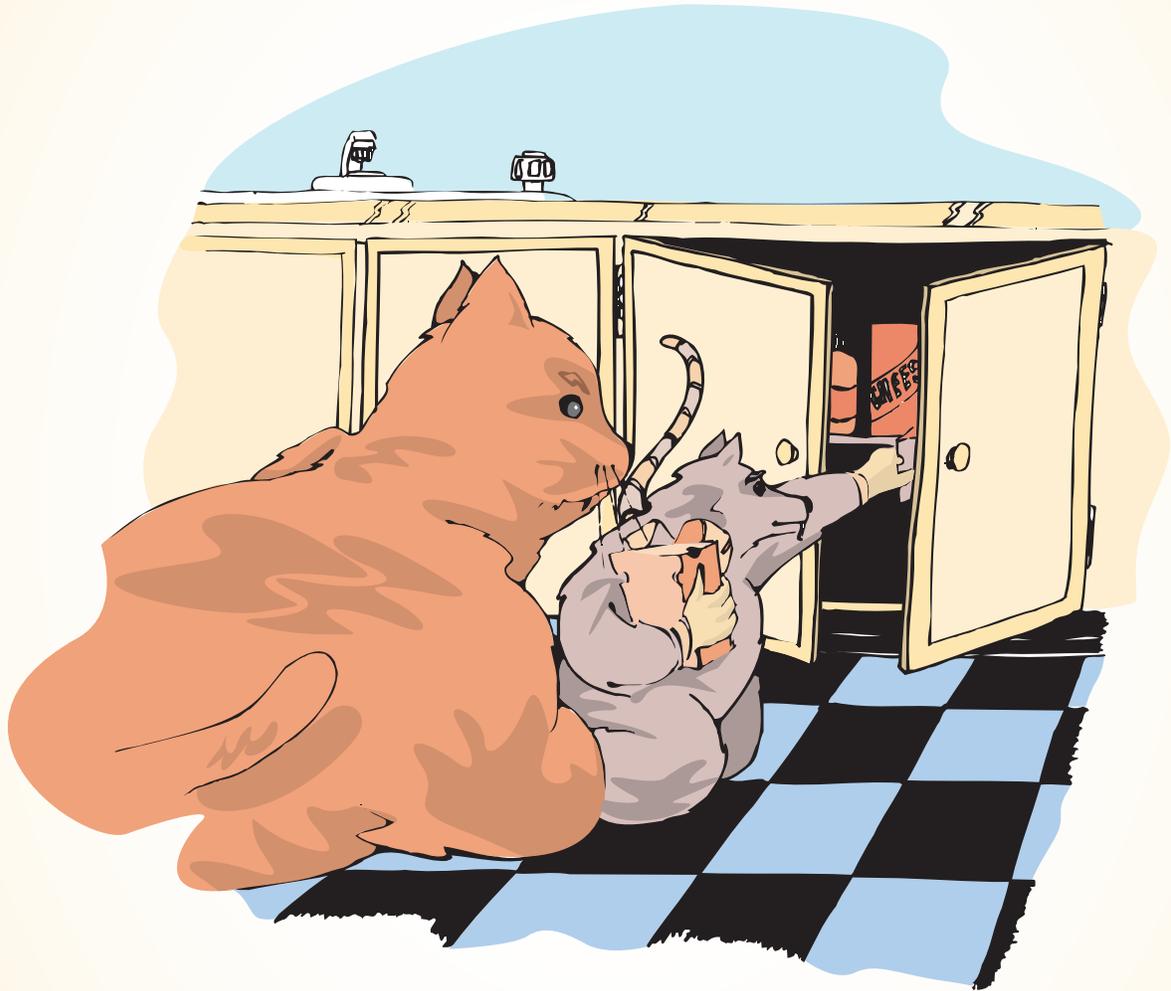
Timothy, who was always hungry, just  
followed his nose and headed directly  
to the cheese cupboard.

On the way, Timothy met someone big and furry that he had never seen before. "Just where do you think you're going", asked the stranger.



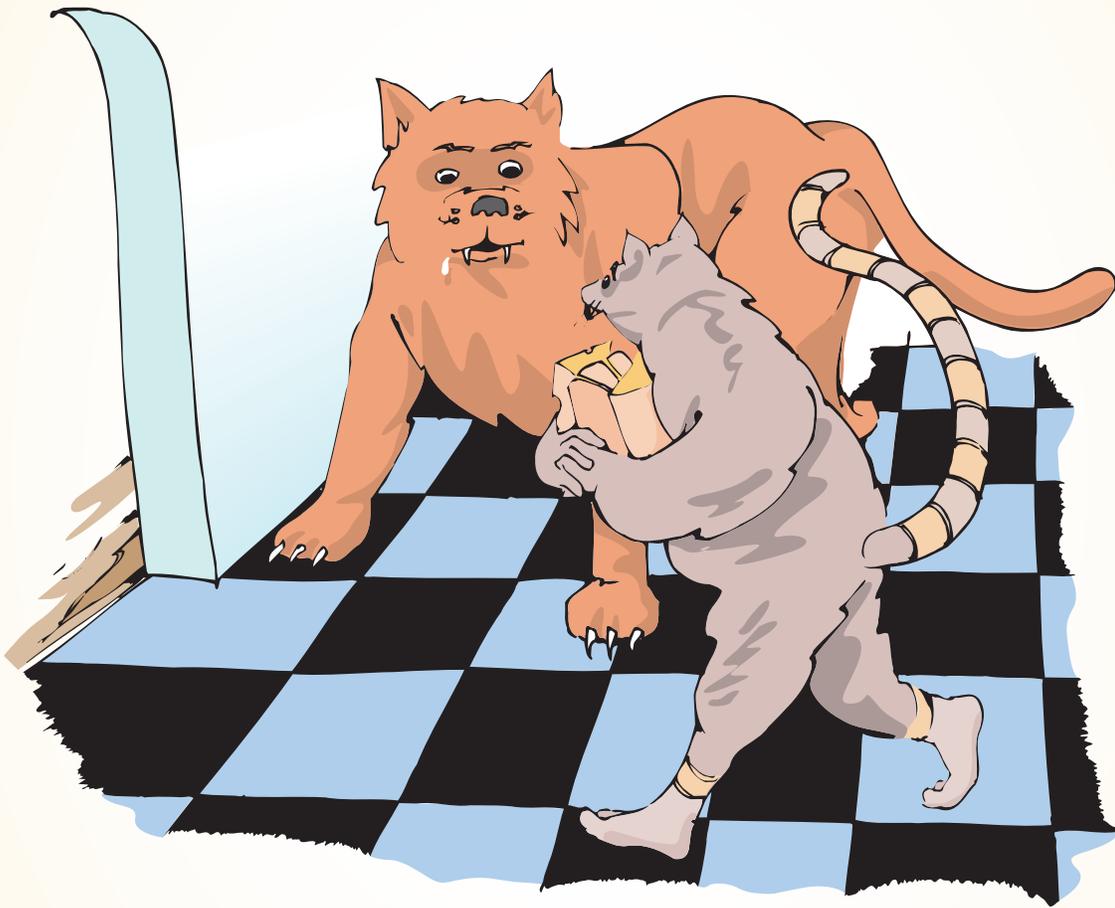
"To bring some cheese home to my brothers and sisters", answered Timothy. "We are all tired and hungry".

"I am also very hungry", purred the stranger to himself. "And I can think of just what I would like to eat for dinner".



The stranger wanted to meet his brothers and sisters. Maybe it was just to say hello. But I don't think so.

" I will come to your house with you and meet your brothers and sisters", he said.

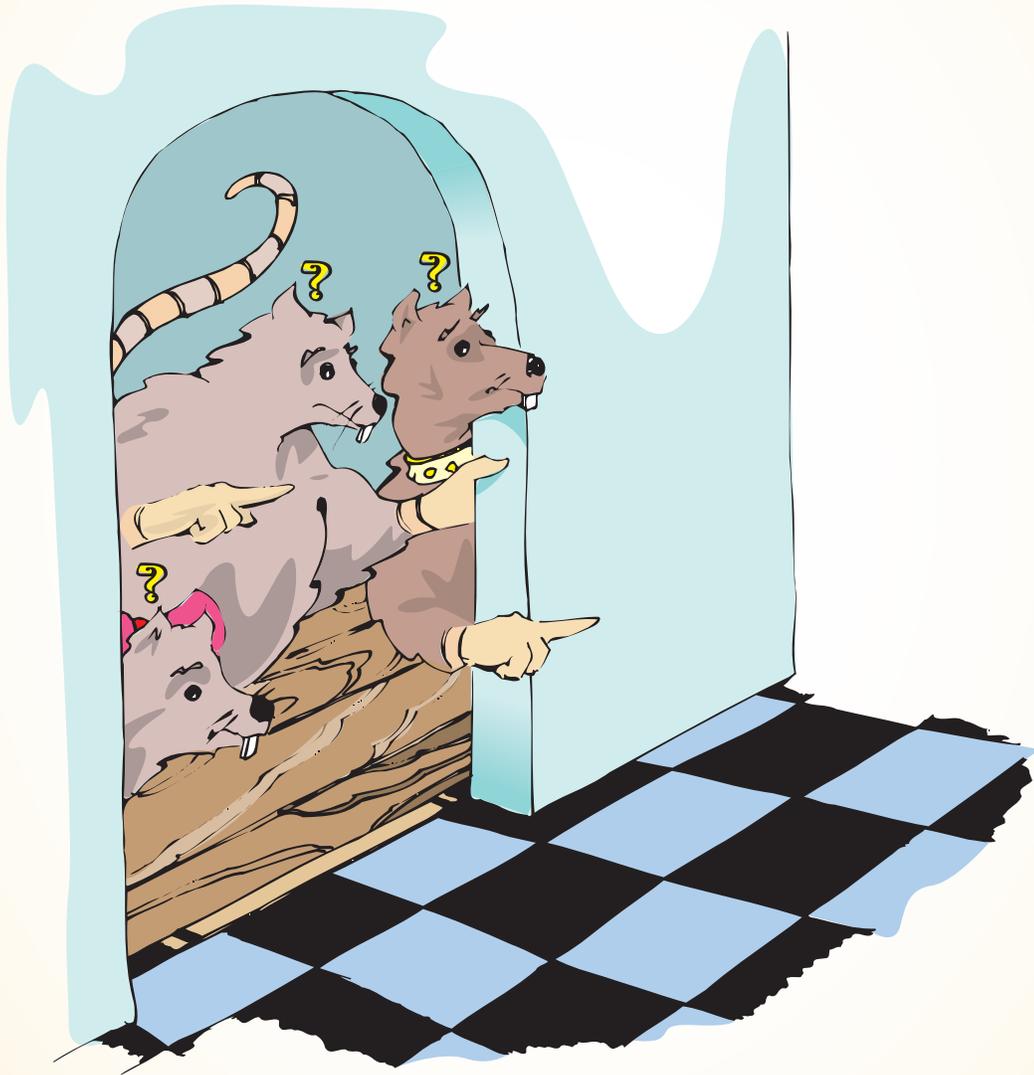


So off they went, back to Timothy's house. And the sneaky stranger followed him hoping to find a bigger meal.

But when the furry beast saw what the children had built together, he became very frightened and ran away.



"Who was that", peeped the other kids. "I don't know ", replied Timothy. "Perhaps he's just shy".



Some strangers are very strange indeed.

Just then, mother entered the room.  
"What is all this noise"? she said.



"Nothing mom, "we were just building  
a cat from your story", answered her  
children proudly.

Then mom smiled. "I see", she  
laughed, shaking her head.



"What wild imaginations you all  
have", she said as she saw what the  
children had built.



"Well it's a good thing there are not any real Cats around here", she thought to herself and left the children to play.

