

The No-Tail Cat or, I Like What I Am

For the earliest reader

by Margaret Hillert
Illustrated by Craig Deeley



This book is part of the
“I’m Reading!” fluent reading series
featured on



The books in this series are written with a controlled set of high-frequency words. High-frequency words are the words that appear most often in print. As children read the substantial fiction and nonfiction stories in this series, they will develop reading fluency and confidence.

We recommend reading these books after or alongside Starfall’s popular “Learn-to-Read” phonics series featuring Zac the Rat™ and other tales.

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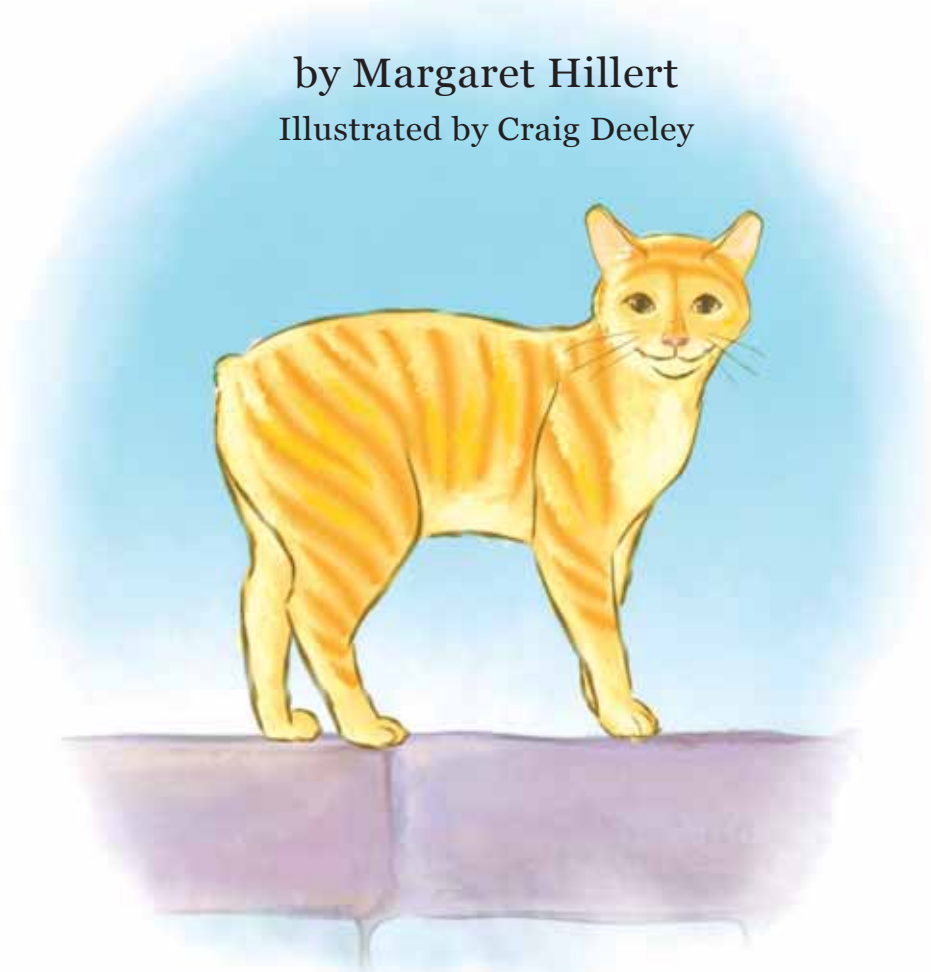
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Starfall Education Foundation
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Look at me.
I am a cat,
but I have no tail.
That is how I am.

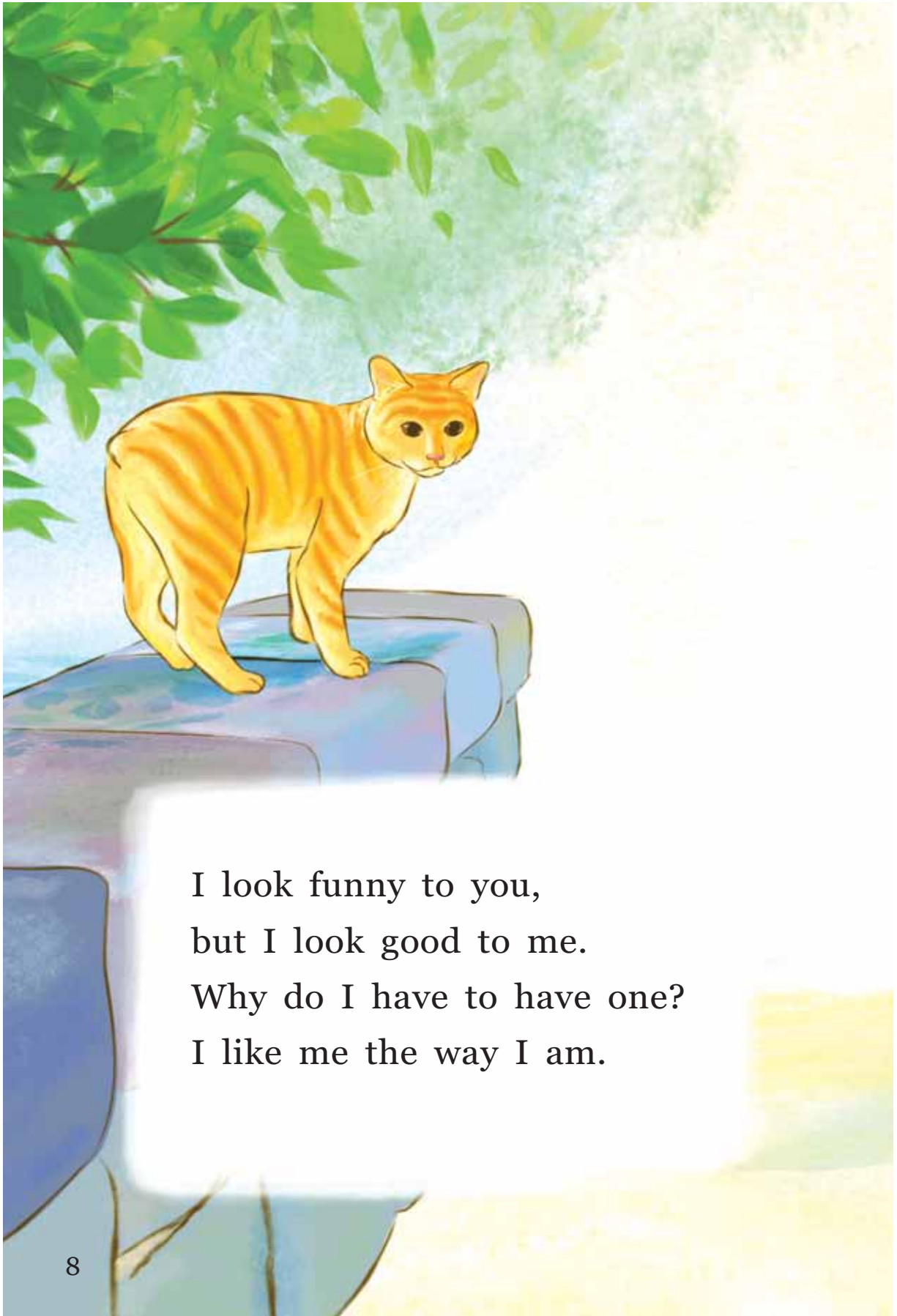


Oh, oh.
You look funny.
You have no tail.
Where is it?






Where is it?
Where did it go?
You look funny without it.



I look funny to you,
but I look good to me.
Why do I have to have one?
I like me the way I am.

But you are not pretty.
We have big tails.
We are pretty.
Go away.
We do not want you.

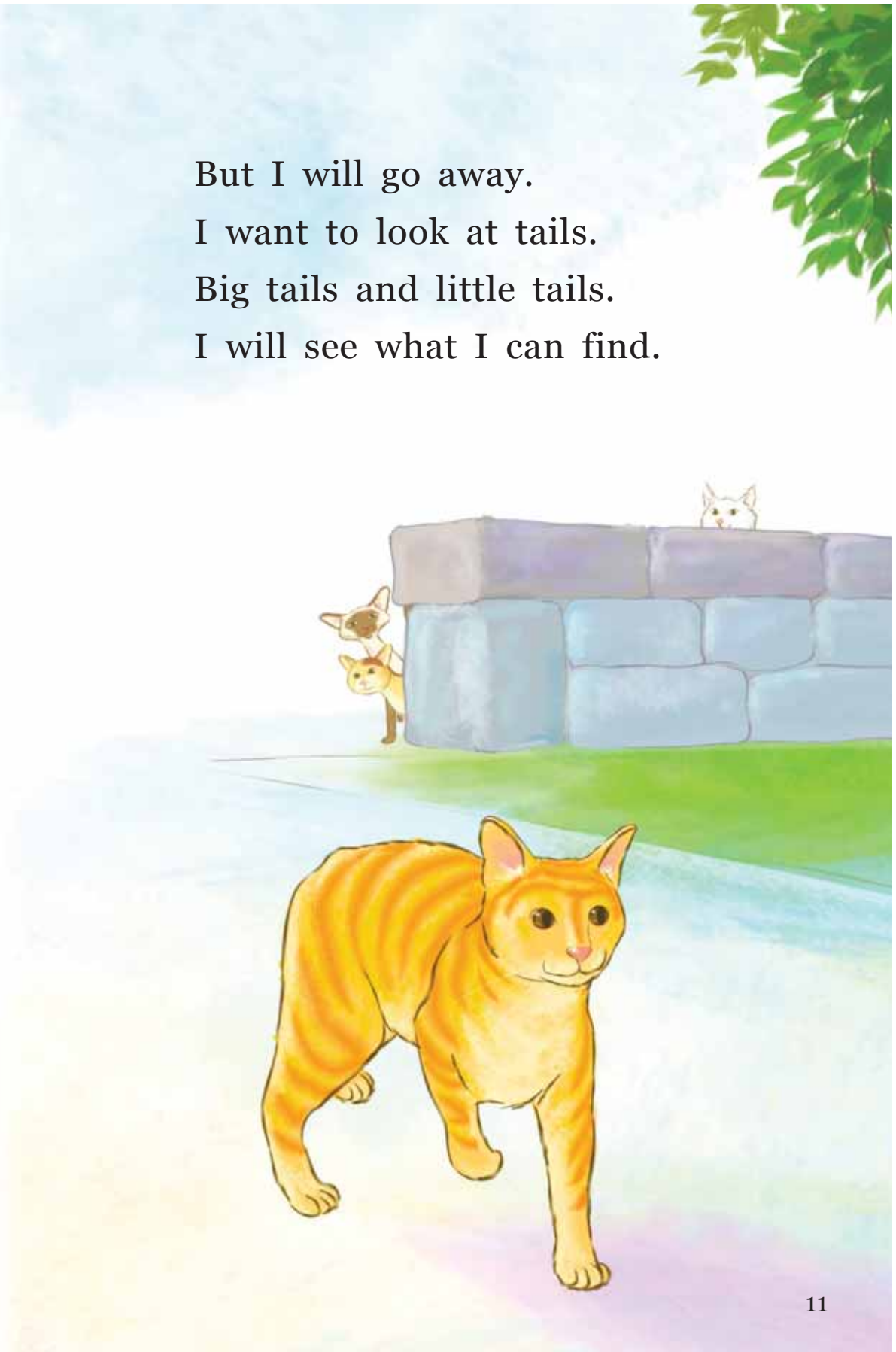




You can not make me go.
I like how I look.
I like what I am.
And that is good.



But I will go away.
I want to look at tails.
Big tails and little tails.
I will see what I can find.

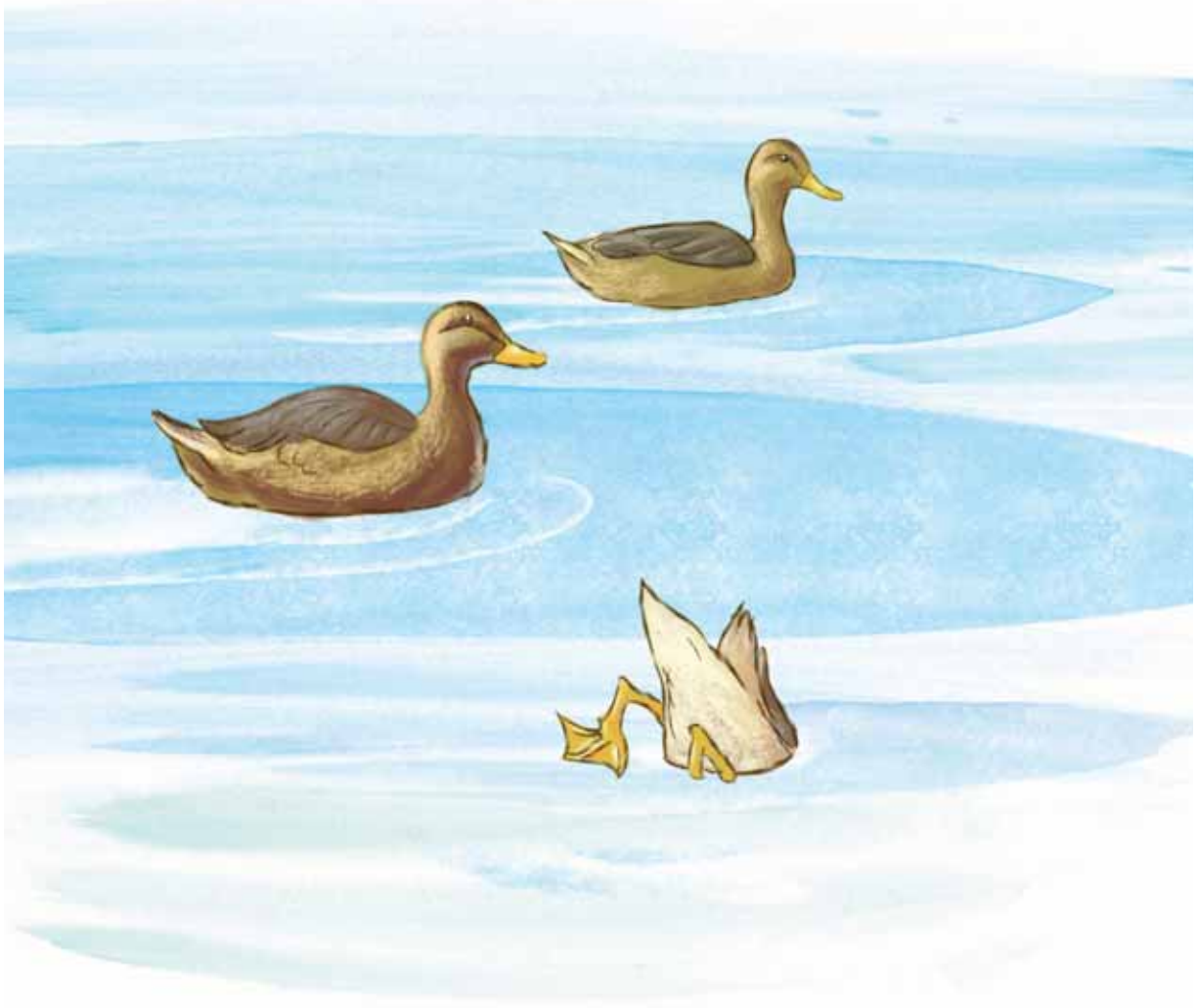


Look at this tail.
It is a big one.
Big, big, big.





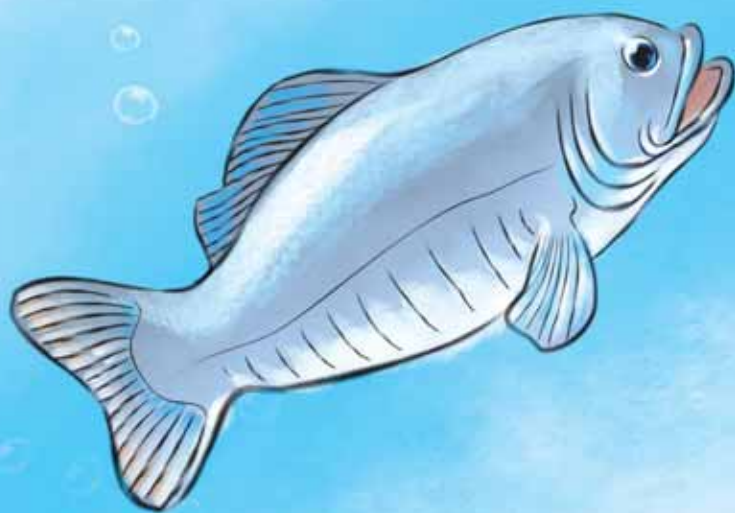
And look here.
Here is a little one.
Little and white.



This one is little, too.
See where it is.
It is up, up, up.

Now here is one that looks funny.
But it is good to work with.
Work, work, work.

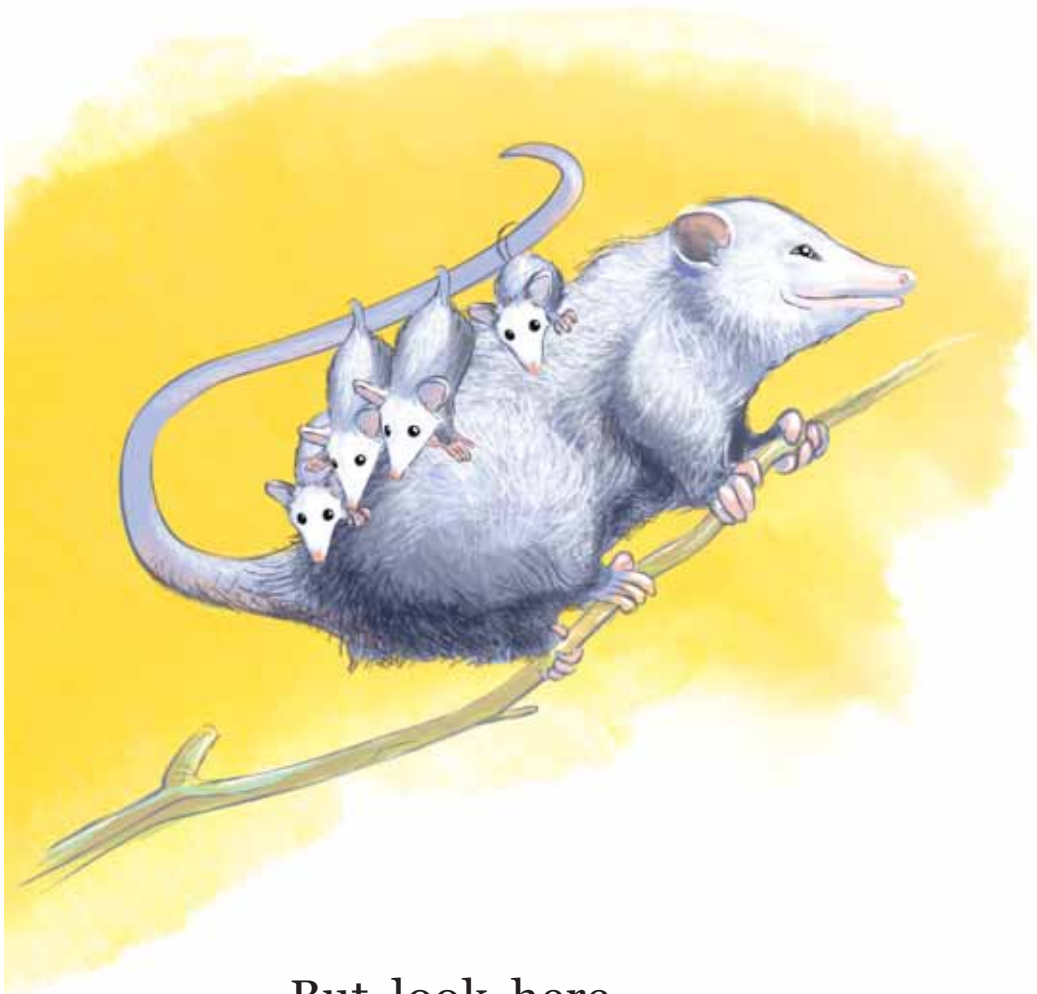




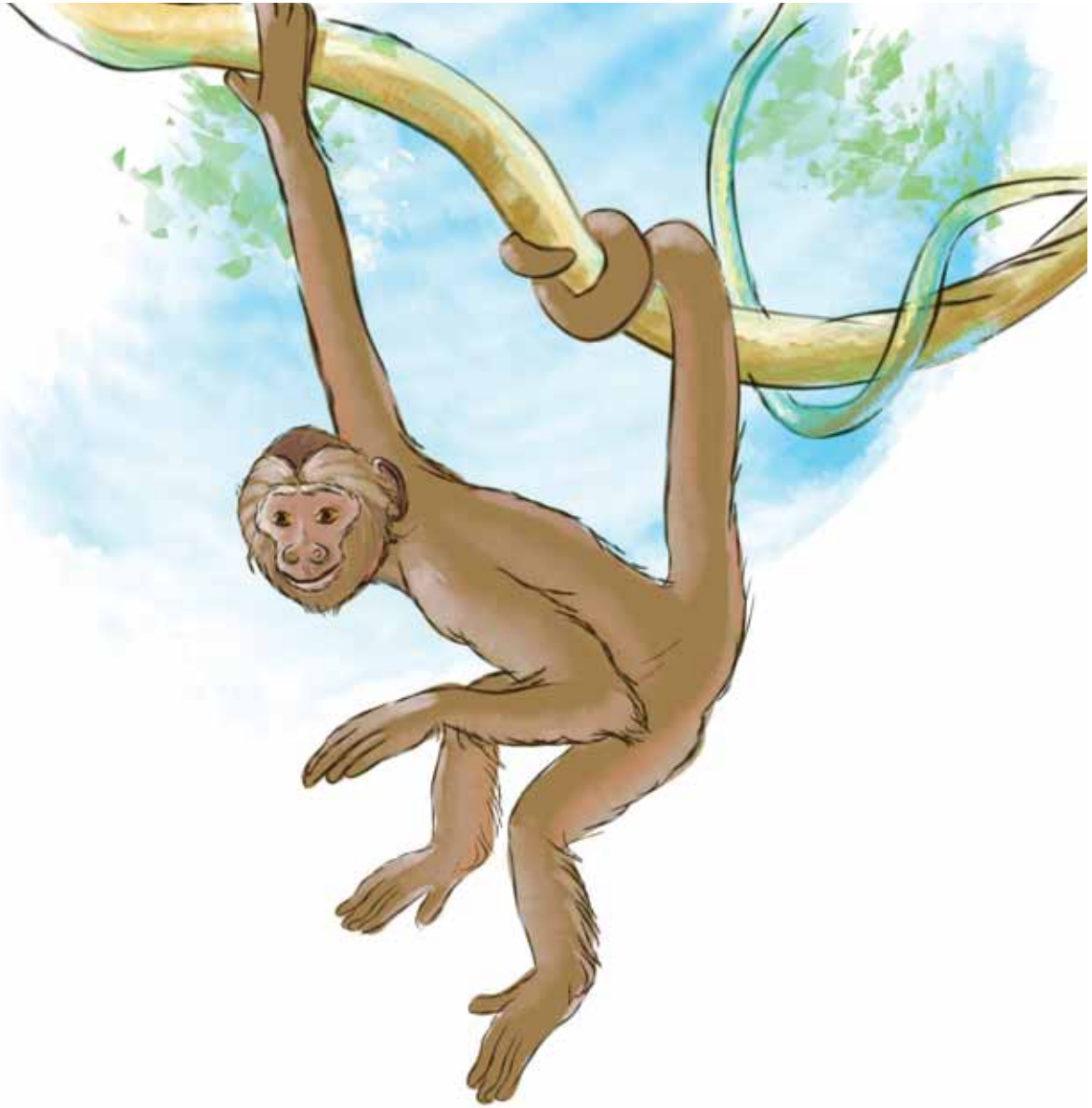
And look at this one.
This one can go and go.
It is a big help.



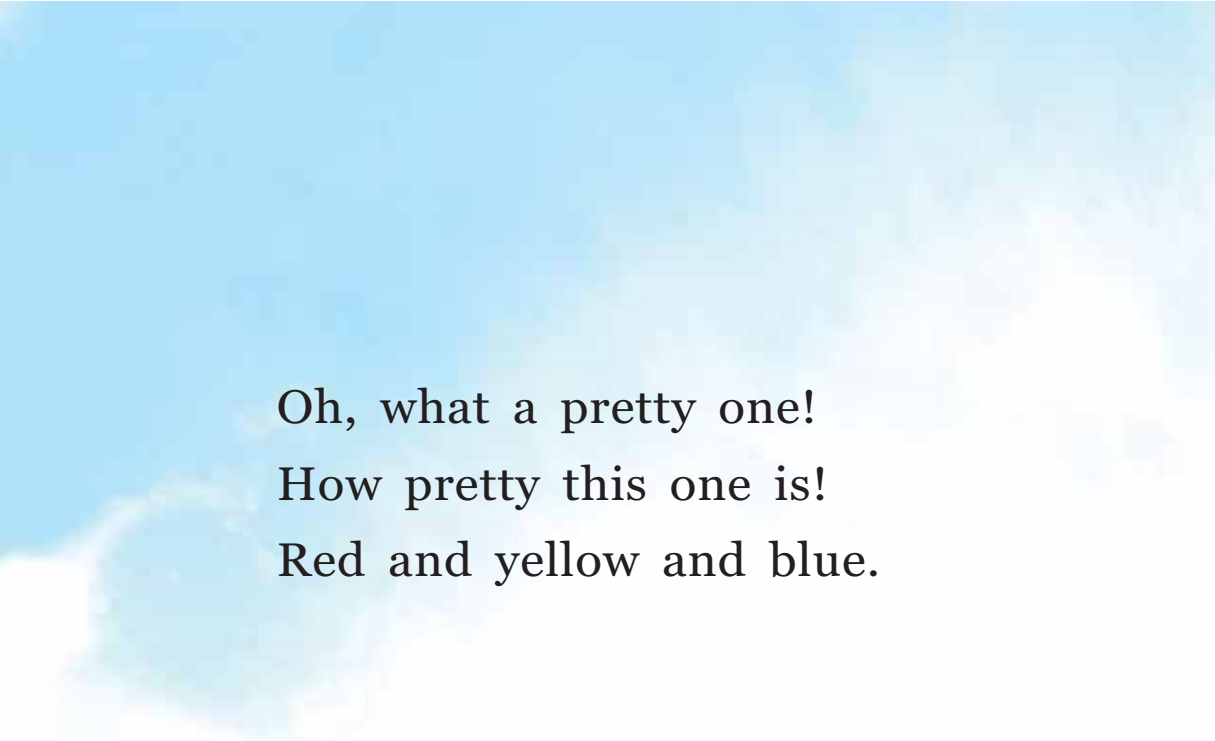
Oh, my!
This one looks funny.
It is a big one, too.



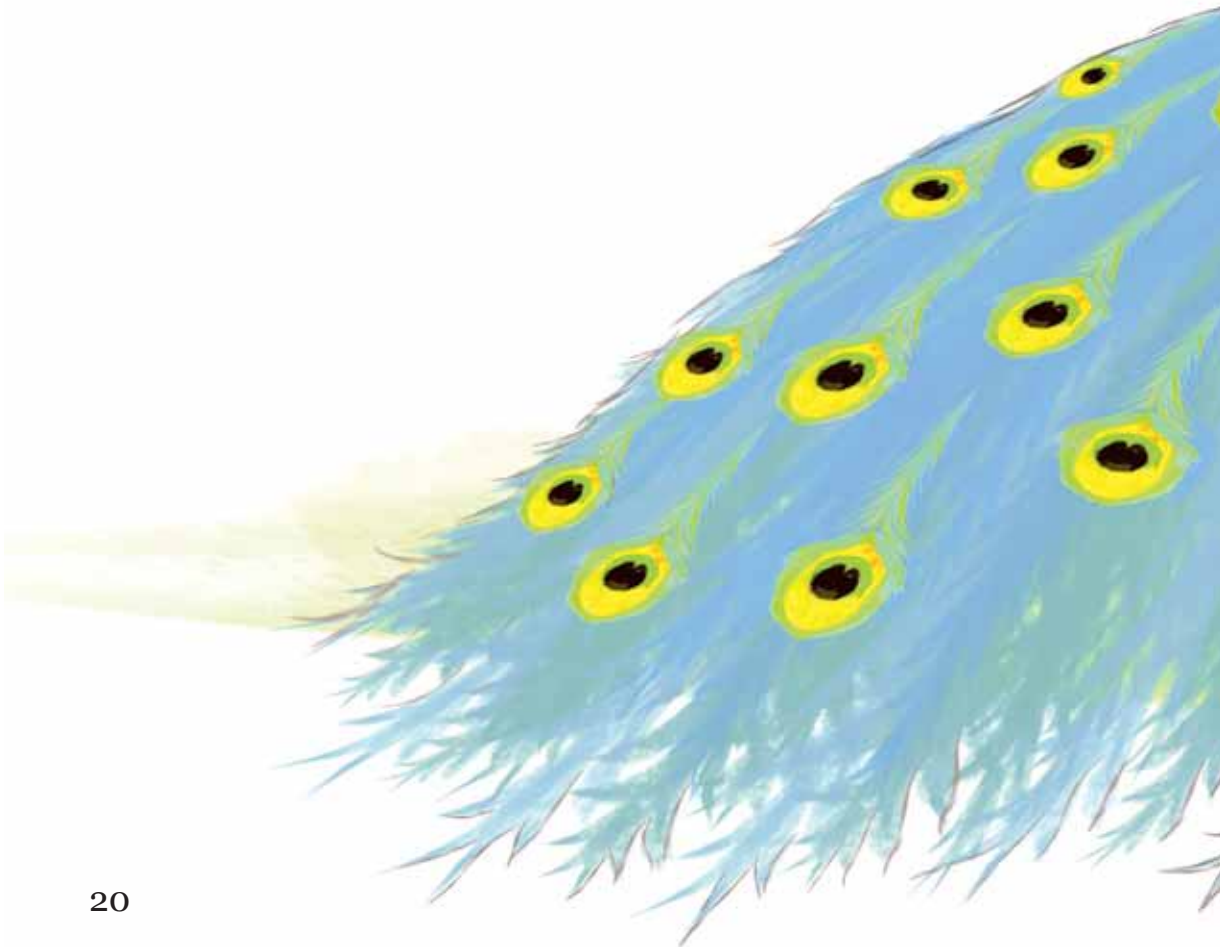
But look here.
What a good one this is!
The babies can have a ride.



This is a big, big one.
And see what it can do.
What fun to do this!

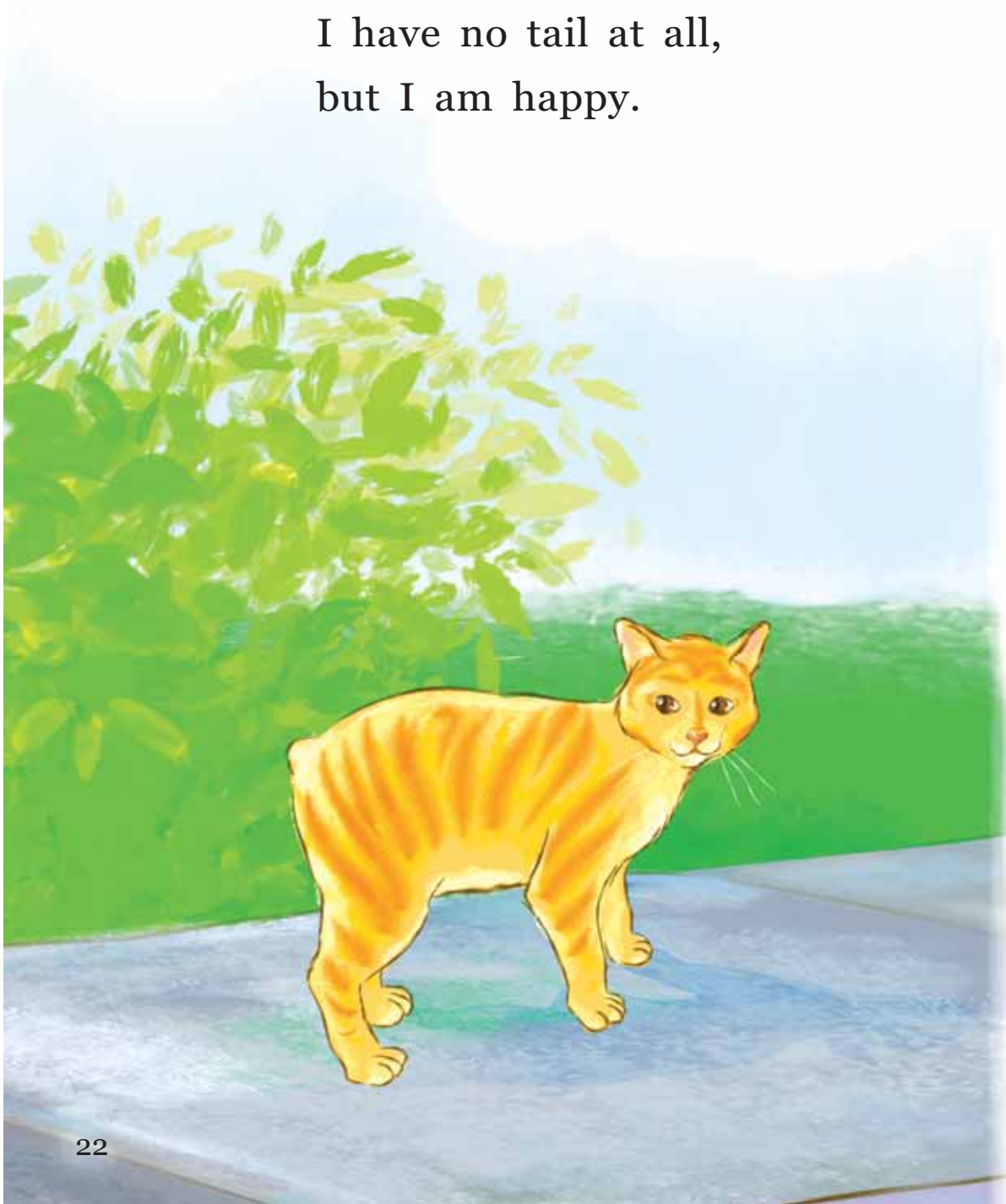


Oh, what a pretty one!
How pretty this one is!
Red and yellow and blue.





Tails are big.
Tails are little.
Some tails are pretty.
I have no tail at all,
but I am happy.





I can do what I want to do.

I can run and jump.

I can play and have fun.

Oh, look at you.
You are pretty.
Come with me.
Come to my house.





I do not have a tail.
I am not too pretty.
Do you want me?



You do not have to have a tail.
I do not have a tail.
You look pretty to me.
Yes, I like you and I want you.
Come with me.









About the Author

Over a million children worldwide have learned to read and to love reading thanks to Margaret Hillert. She developed her knack for writing exciting books for beginning readers during her 34 years as a first-grade teacher. She continued writing into her '90s, and published over eighty books for children. Margaret's use of a controlled vocabulary of high-frequency words helps children gain confidence and reading fluency. Her wonderful stories spark their interest.

Margaret earned a teaching degree from Wayne State University in 1948, after completing a nursing degree in 1944 at the University of Michigan. In addition to writing children's books, Margaret authored a book of poetry for adults, wrote magazine articles, gave lectures, and always found time to read to children at her local library. In 1993, Margaret won a prestigious award from the Woman's National Book Association for her contribution to early reading, but believed her biggest reward to be the three generations of students whom she taught to read.

Margaret passed away in 2014.



Vocabulary - 65 Words

a
all
am
and
are
at
away
babies
big
blue
but
can
cat
come
did
do
fun
funny
go
good
happy
have

help
here
house
how
I
is
it
like
little
look(s)
make
me
my
no
not
now
oh
one
play
pretty
red
ride

run
see
some
tail(s)
that
this
to
too
walk
want
way
we
where
white
why
with
without
work
yellow
yes
you



SB257



The No-Tail Cat does not look the same as other cats. Is this a problem, or is he fine just the way he is?

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