

Contents

Meet the Author	6
About the Series	7
Characters	8
Before Reading	10
1 A strange cat	15
2 A missing phone	18
3 A message from Violet	21
4A A cat statue	25
5A How do I help you?	28
4B A cat at school	31
5B A girl and a cat	34
6 A snake at the window	37
7A Mamba and Jag	40
8A May makes a plan	43
7B A snake bite	46
8B Mamba	49
9 At the museum	52
10A A super-cat	56
10B A crocodile statue	59
10C A broken statue	62
After Reading	65



THE SECRET STATUES BOOKS

An international group of thieves called the Golden Zoo is collecting ancient magical statues. These statues have the power to turn people into animals. The Golden Zoo is taking children and training them to steal things. It uses the statues to turn the children into animals. Then the children can steal from anywhere and take anything. The Golden Zoo plans to control the world.



Meet Violet.

Violet is one of the Golden Zoo's children. She doesn't like the Zoo and she wants to stop their plans. The only way she can do this is to learn more about the statues and her own powers. But she can't do it on her own. Can she find help and find a way to stop the group before they stop her?



Meet Philip.

Philip is an ordinary school kid. He doesn't really like adventures. How does he get involved with Violet and the Golden Zoo? Can you help him decide what to do?

The Cat's Paw is the second book in the Secret Statues mystery adventure series. Each book is a maze reader, which means that you, the reader, can make decisions along the way about what the characters do next in the story. Each decision you make will lead you to a different version of the story and a unique ending, so choose carefully!

To help you make the best decisions, you need to know these words. Use a dictionary to look them up.

museum statue thief

THE CAT'S PAW



GUESS!

What type of person is Henry?
What type of person is May?
Who is the hero in this story?

MAMBA



VIOLET



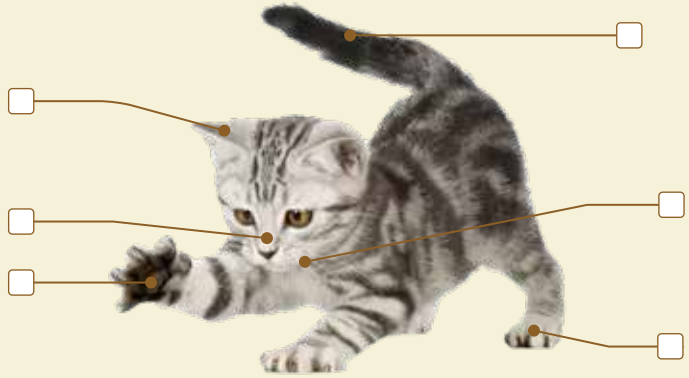
JAG



BEFORE READING

1 Match the words to the parts of the cat.

- a ear
- b nose
- c whiskers
- d tail
- e paw
- f claw



2 What are these cats doing? Complete the sentences with a word from the box.

purring hissing scratching licking



This cat is _____ .




This cat is _____ .



This cat is _____ .



This cat is _____ .

3  **Work in pairs and answer these questions about cats.**

- a What do cats do when they are happy? _____
- b What do cats do when they see an animal they don't like? _____
- c Which of these is not a big cat?



JAGUAR



FOX



LION



TIGER

- d Cats sleep a lot. How many hours a day?

- 10–12 hours a day
- 13–16 hours a day
- 20 hours a day

- e Cats move both right feet and then both left feet when they walk. Which are the only other **two** animals that do this?



CAMEL

RAT



GIRAFFE

DOG



- f True or false?

- | | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | In 1963, a cat called Felicette went into space. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 | The oldest cat was 60 years old. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 | A cat can run at 48 kilometres per hour. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

CHAPTER 1

A strange cat



GUESS! WHAT IS STRANGE ABOUT THE CAT?

- A It can talk.
- B It walks on two legs.
- C It looks different to a normal cat.
- D It wears shoes.



What was wrong? Philip stopped and looked left, then right. He crossed the road and walked along the path by the city park. He was going home. The sun was bright^{•1}, the sky was blue, and the grass was green, but Philip felt worried[•]. He looked across the street and saw it for the first time. A cat. A cat looking at him. Was it looking at him? No, it couldn't be.

It was a very beautiful cat. Slim[•] and black, with bright^{•2} purple eyes. Philip walked quickly to the park. It was a nice day, but not for Philip. At the entrance to the park, he saw the boys from school.

Glossary

- **bright¹**: full of light
- **bright²**: not dark
- **slim**: thin
- **worried**: afraid about something that could happen

Oh no... thought Philip. There were three of them. They played football every day and really liked to kick the ball at Philip. He stopped. He looked back. The cat was behind him, looking at him with its purple eyes. Philip didn't like it. He walked away without looking, and into the biggest boy, Henry.

'S-s-sorry, Henry!' he said quickly, and started walking fast. He didn't look back.

He ran into the park, around the lake, and jumped over the flowers. He stopped behind a tree. Was Henry following him? Was the cat following him? He opened one eye, then the other. Nothing. Then he heard it. A soft purr. The cat!

He wanted to move away, but he didn't. What was it about this cat? It looked at him. Its eyes were very beautiful. He moved closer and closer, down to the cat. He felt the cat's paw on his face.

Time stopped. Purple eyes looked into Philip's eyes. He couldn't look away. The eyes were bigger and bigger, and he was smaller and smaller. The cat... where was the cat? He looked up and saw a beautiful girl with purple eyes. She was smiling. Why was she smiling?

He looked down at his feet and... where were his feet? He saw cat's paws! Philip was a cat! The girl stroked his head. Philip hissed at her.

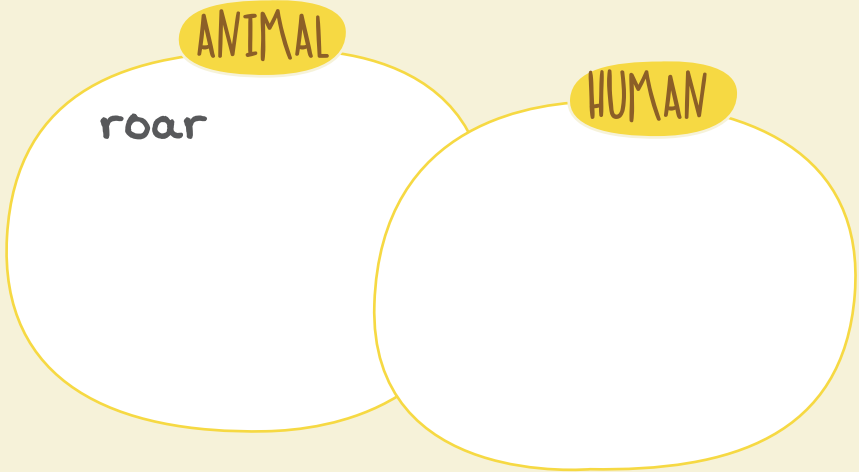
'Poor little cat, don't worry! Everything is purrrrfect. Thank you and bye-bye!'

- **following:** moving behind (someone)
- **hissed:** made an angry sound
- **paw:** cat's foot
- **purr:** sound a cat makes when it is happy
- **purrrrfect:** purr + perfect (not a real word)
- **smiling:** looking happy
- **stroked:** touched
- **What was it about this cat?:** What was strange about this cat?

AFTER READING VOCABULARY

- 1** Put the verbs in the correct groups. Some words can go in both groups.

roar hiss bark scream purr
miaow laugh smile shout



- 2** Use the correct form of the verbs from Exercise 1 to complete the sentences from the story.

- a** The big man started _____ . 'Haha!'
b 'We are going to see her again. I know it.' May

c 'I think we need to... AAAH!' May _____ .
d The dog _____ .
e Violet looked happy. Could cats smile? She ran to May and

f 'Run!' Philip _____ .
g '_____ ! I'm a cat,' May said.
h The light hit the jaguar. It hurt his eyes. He stopped and

i The snake was moving across the grass. Violet the cat
_____ .

K A2 Key English Test Reading and Writing Part 4

1 Read the extract from the story. Without looking at the story, choose the correct answer (A, B or C).

There was a very large snake – Mamba! **1** _____ to the snake was a large man in a fur coat. This was Jag. He was holding Violet in his large hand.

Philip knew what to do. He put his hand

2 _____ the statue. The statue's eyes flashed. Violet turned into a girl **3** _____.

'Yes!' said Violet. She jumped and kicked Jag in the face. He fell **4** _____. She turned over in the air and picked up Mamba the snake. She **5** _____ the snake at Jag.

But now, Jag **6** _____. Big cat teeth grew in his mouth. His hands and feet turned into **7** _____ with large claws. He was a huge jaguar, and he was **8** _____. He hit Violet, then jumped on May.

The snake **9** _____ back into Mamba.

'Leave the statue. Leave Violet. Take your sister and go,' she said.

Philip looked **10** _____ his sister. He looked at Violet. What could he do?

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|------------|
| 1 A Next | B Behind | C In front |
| 2 A to | B on | C at |
| 3 A still | B again | C ever |
| 4 A back | B to | C on |
| 5 A caught | B put | C threw |
| 6 A was changing | B is changing | C changes |
| 7 A tails | B hands | C paws |
| 8 A angry | B silly | C funny |
| 9 A changed | B went | C became |
| 10 A into | B to | C at |