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For Akira and Simone—A.F-K.

For those with animals in their lives—K.W-M.

Alex Falase-Koya

Ken Wilson-Max

Scaredy Cat



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Gabe listened quietly as his classmate, Zeke, finished giving his book report.

‘... And that’s why *Mondell and the Three Dragons* was an amazing book to read,’ Zeke said.

‘So, do we have any questions about this fantastic book?’ their teacher, Mr Falk added.

A whole bunch of hands went up. Zeke’s talk had been so good that everyone wanted to ask questions.

Gabe couldn’t imagine speaking at the front of the class. He felt much too shy.



‘Great presentation, Zeke. Now, I wonder who’s next.’
Mr Falk paused and looked at his list. ‘Next Monday,
it’ll be Gabe’s turn.’

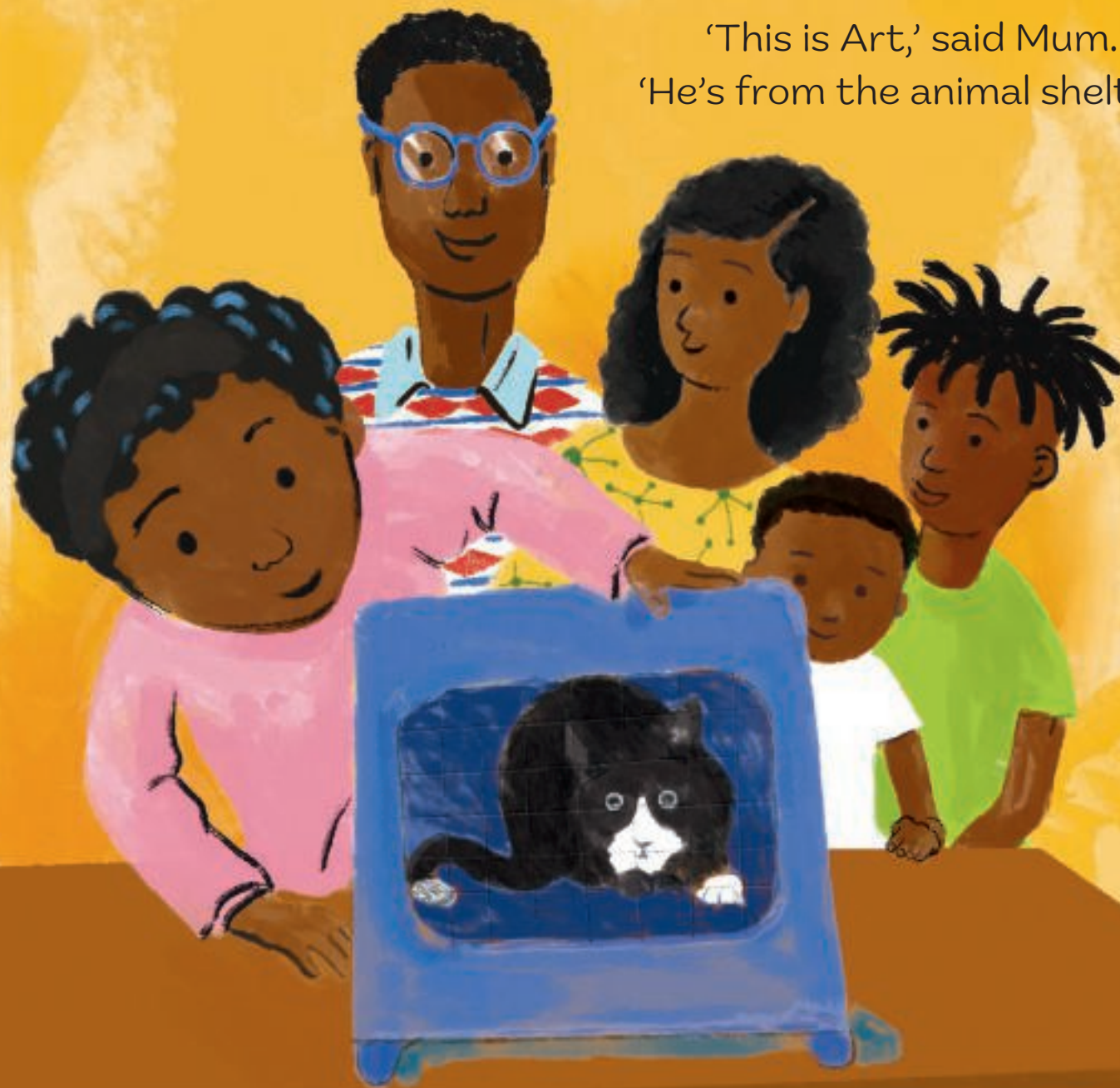


Gabe gasped. His chest felt all wobbly, and his mouth felt all
dry. It was like there were a thousand eyes, all staring at him.
Gabe wanted to hide underneath his desk!



When Gabe got home another surprise was waiting for him.

'This is Art,' said Mum.
'He's from the animal shelter.'



A cat crouched down, staring up at them with nervous eyes.

'He's a bit jumpy right now,' said Dad.
'But I'm sure he'll warm up to us soon!'

'Woah! Can it do any cool tricks?'
Anthony, Gabe's younger brother said.
'Like play fetch?'
'No, he's a cat, not a dog,' Omar,
Gabe's older brother replied.



Art darted away.



Art liked
to hide.



Art hid underneath the
table when Gabe's brothers
played superheroes.

Art hid behind the
couch when Dad got
the vacuum out.



Art hid in the clothes
basket when Mum made
a smoothie.



Art also liked hiding in weirder places.



Art hid behind the books on the bookshelf.



Art hid underneath Dad's hat and under his bed!

Art hid in a lampshade.



Art hid in the fruit basket.

'Art, if you touch the fruit you have to eat it. It's a family rule!' Mum said, but Art did not eat that orange.



'Art, this isn't your bed. The cat bed is in the living room,' Dad said. But Art did not use the cat bed.

Gabe's whole family tried to lure
Art out of his hiding places.

'Hey, Art! Do you want to
play with the feather toy?'
Anthony said, but Art
didn't budge.



'Hey, Art! Do you want
to eat some treats?'
Omar said, but Art
wasn't convinced.

