Helping your children choose books they will love

I reading

Lovereading4kids.co.uk is a book website created for parents and children to make choosing books easy and fun

Opening extract from

Songbirds: Top Cat and Other Stories

Written by

Julia Donaldson

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Oxford University Press

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Songbirds

Top Cat



Story by Julia Donaldson
Pictures by Joelle Dreidemy
Series editor Clare Kirtley

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Tips for reading Top Cat together

This book practises these sounds:

t p m o c

Ask your child to point to each of these letters and say the sound (e.g. *c* as in *cat*, not the letter name *cee*). Look out for these letters in the story.

Your child might find this word tricky:

I

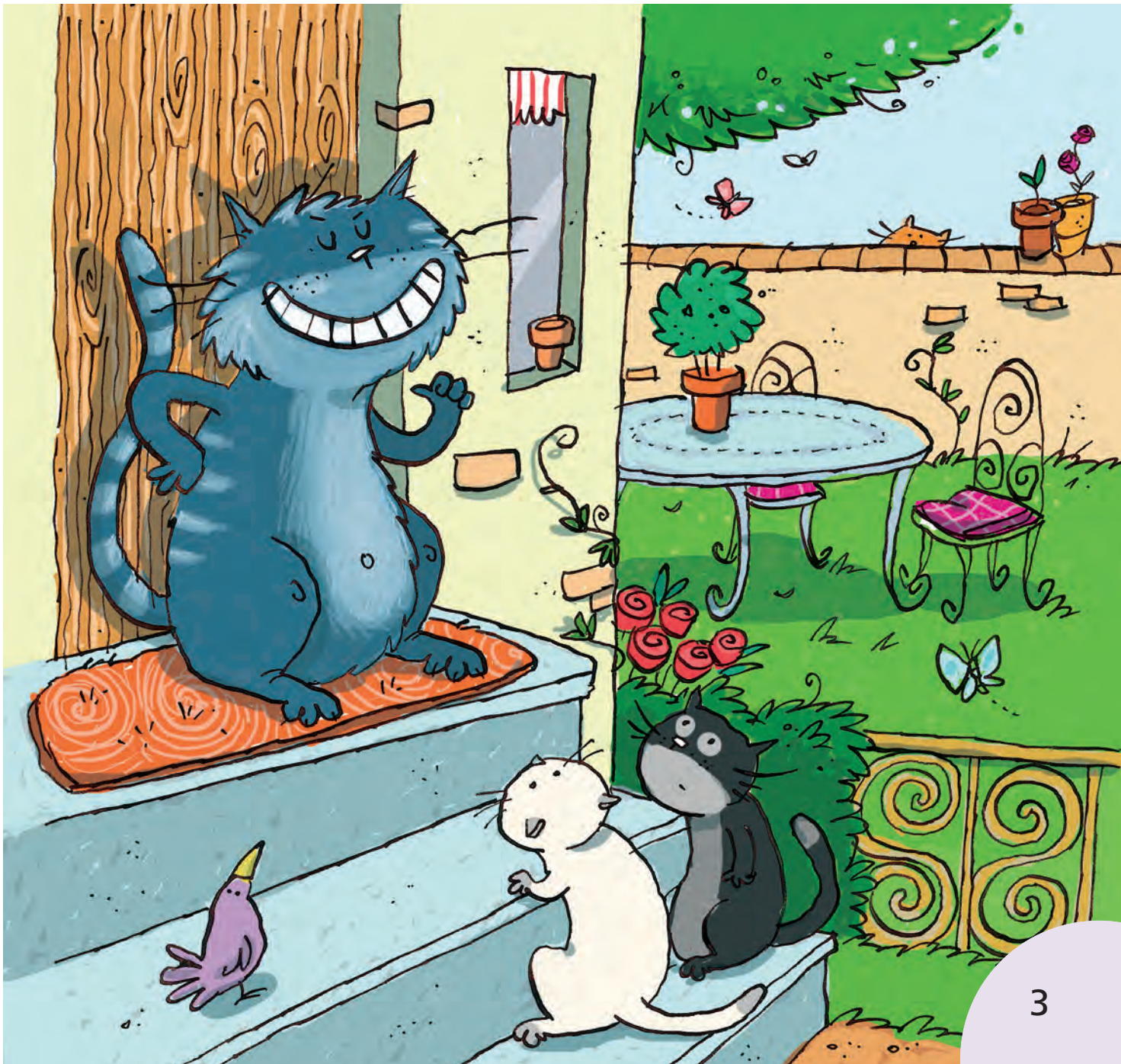
Explain that this is a very common word, but you do not sound it out. Say the word for your child if they do not know it.

Before you begin, ask your child to read the title by sounding out and blending. Look at the picture together. What do you think this story is about?

Remind your child to read unfamiliar words by saying the individual sounds and then blending them together quickly to read the word. When you have finished reading the story, look through it again and:

- Talk about the cats' expressions on each page. Ask your child, *How do they feel?*
- Find the words that end with the *p* sound (*top*, *pop*). Notice that they sound the same at the end of the word. Have fun thinking of some other words that rhyme with *top* and *pop (mop*, *hop*, *shop*, *flop*, *chop*, *stop)*.

I am top cat.



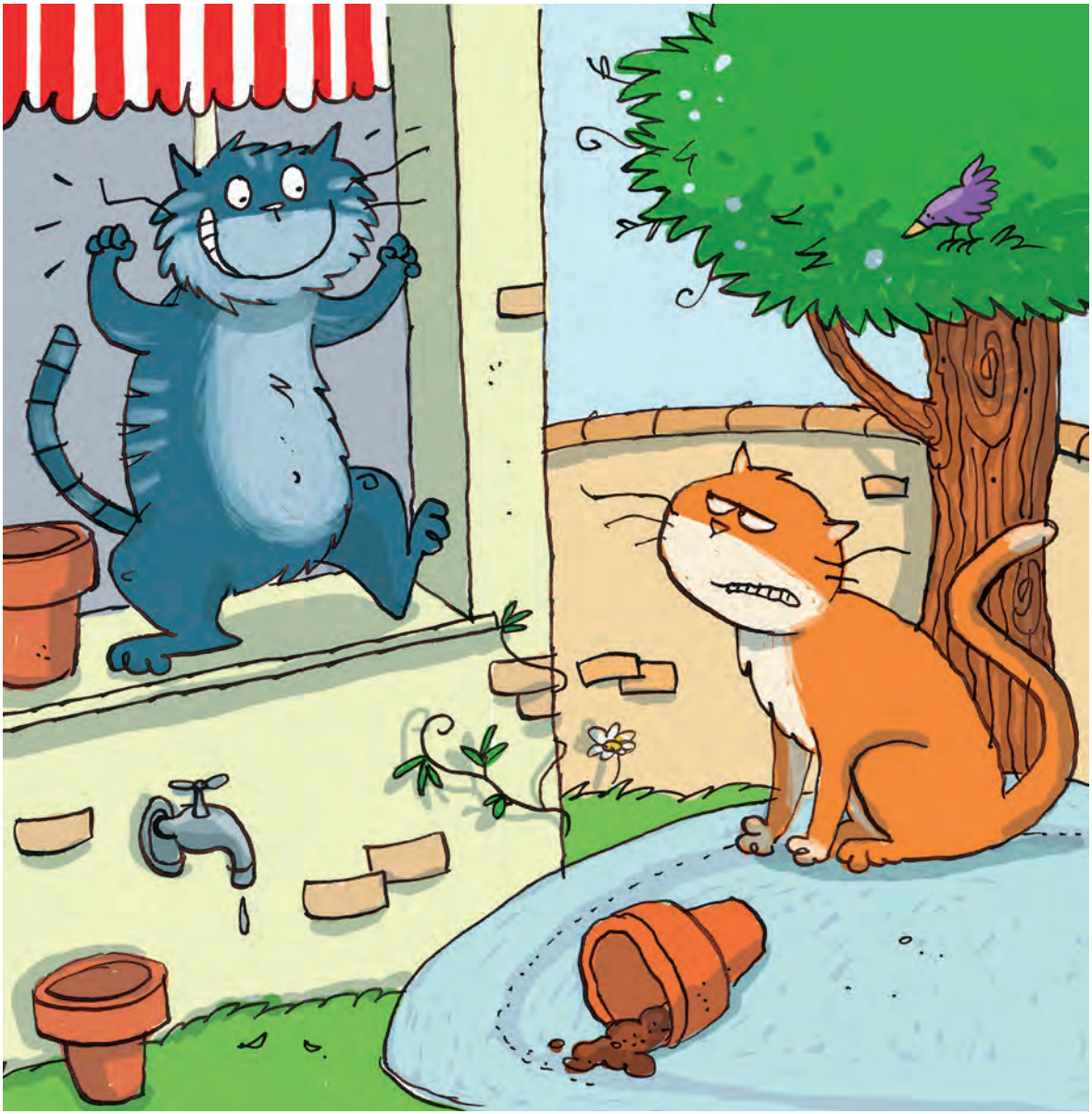
Am I top cat?



I am! I am!



I am top cat.



Am I top cat?



I am! I am!




Pop!

Am I top cat?

