



The cat is up!
The wind sways
the tree.



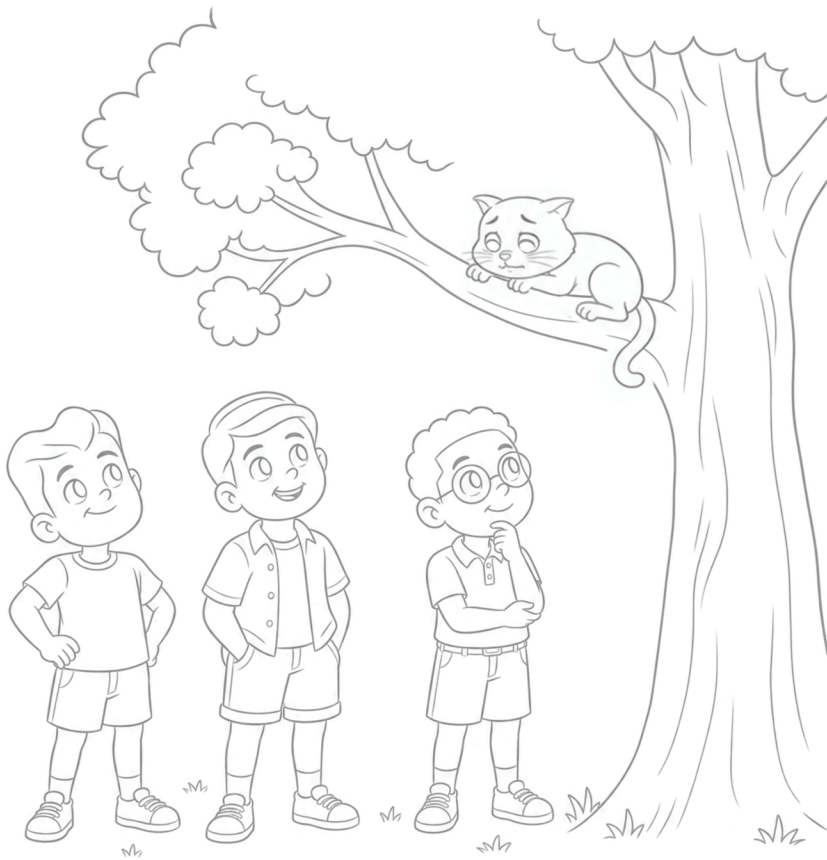
Dave steps up quick.
He gets up and lifts
the cat.



“I got it!” he says.



The cat clings to a
thick branch.
Its tail shakes. “It is
scared!” says Nate.



Dave steps up.
He looks at the tree.



Dave hugs the
cat close.
“You are safe
now!” he says.



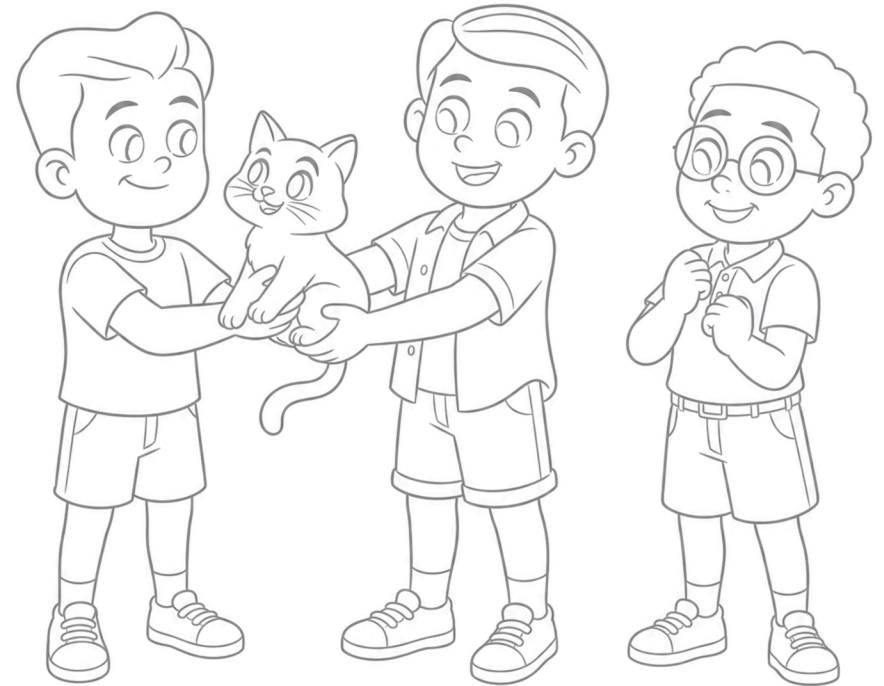
The cat blinks and
licks his hand.



The small cat
is stuck.
“We have to save it!”
says Dave.



“Look! The cat is at the base of the big tree!” says Nate.



He hands the cat to Jake.
“Safe at last!” says Jake.



Nate grins.

“Dave, you are so
brave!”



Then... meow!

A soft sound drifts
in the air.

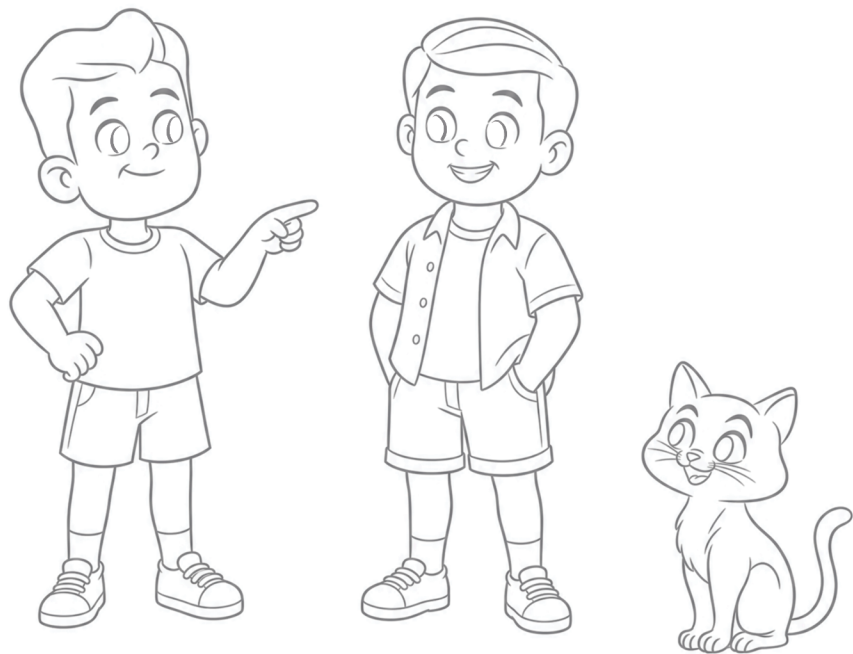
“I hear it!” says Jake.



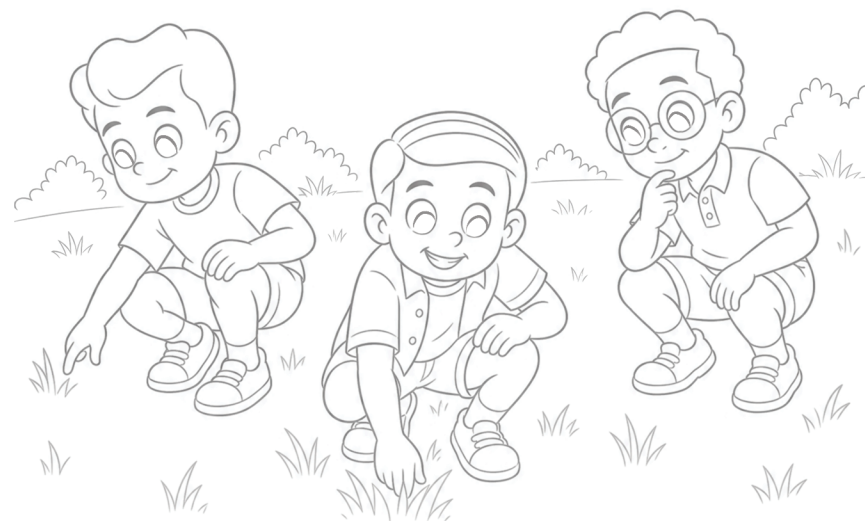
They check the path.



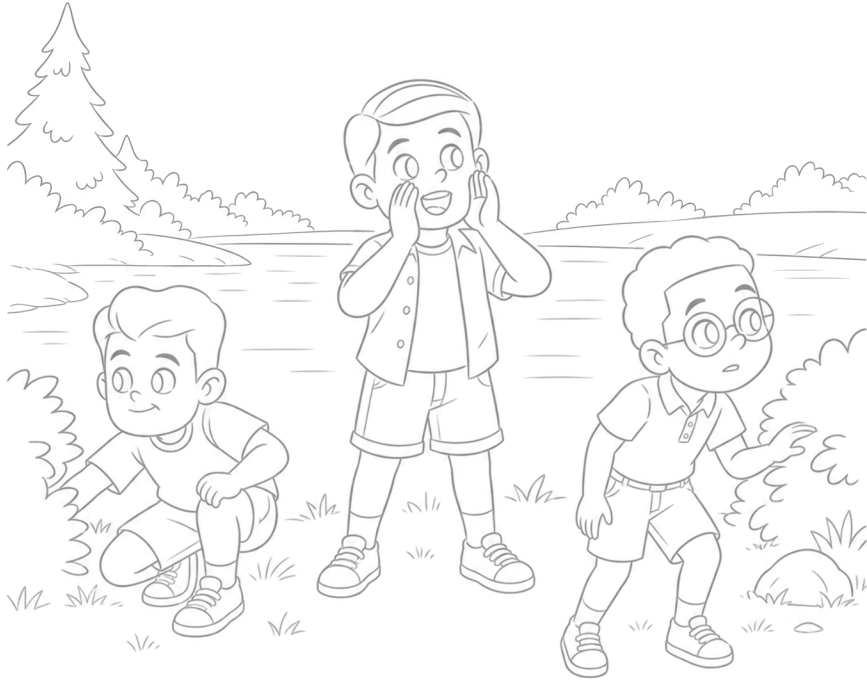
The cat purrs and
rubs on Dave's leg.



“The cat likes you!”
says Jake.



They scan the grass.



They scan a wide
space near the lake.
"Cat! Cat! Where
are you?" calls Dave.



"Good job, Dave!"
says Nate.



Dave pets the cat.
“A brave heart is a
kind heart!”



They check under a bench.
They look in a big crate.
They check behind a gate.



The pals run past
the gate.



The pals smile.
They take the cat
to a safe place.



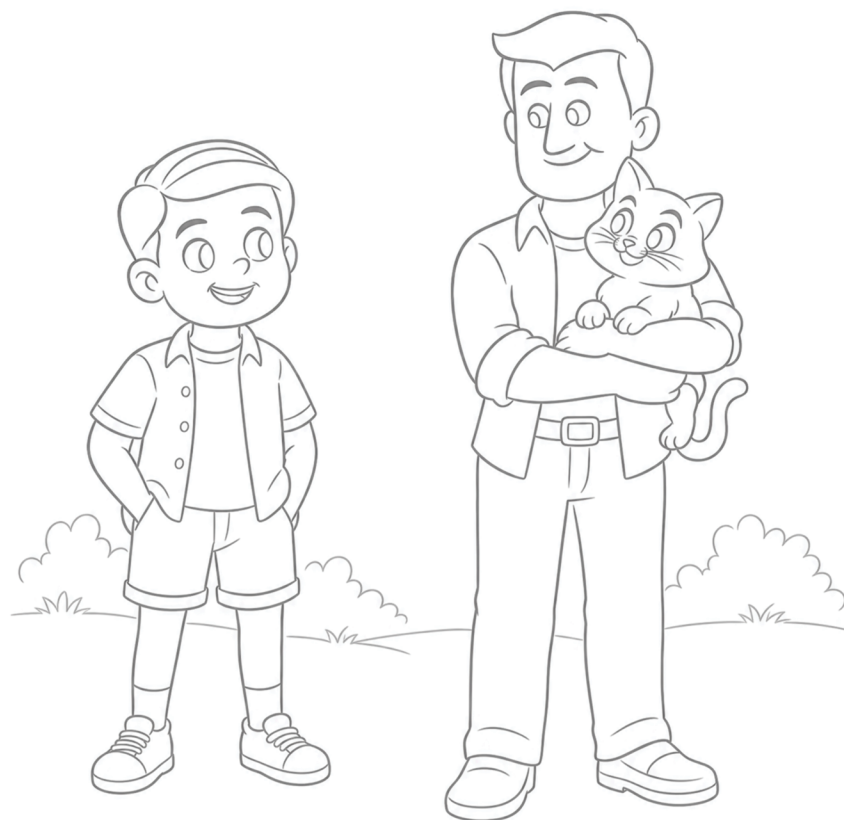
A man at the gate waves.
“This is my pet!” he says.



Dave stands tall.
“We must help! A
pet must not be lost!”



“A small cat ran
past the gate!”
says Nate.



He picks up the cat and
gives Dave a big grin.



“Thanks to you my cat is safe. You are brave and kind!” he says.



“Dave! A pet is lost!” says Jake.



One day, Jake and
Nate run to Dave.



Dave smiles.



“I am glad the cat
is home safe!”



Dave is brave.
He likes to help
and save.

In This Reader:

Phonics Skill

The a_e Spelling Pattern

In the a_e spelling pattern, the final e is silent and the a spells its long sound, /ā/, as in gate, lake, and safe.

Decodable Words

a_e	Beginning Blend +a_e	a_e + Blending
base, Dave, gate, Jake, lake, Nate safe, save, take	brave crate	shakes waves
Other Decodable Words: bench, blinks, branch, branch, calls, cat, check, clings, clings, drifts, drifts, gets, glad, grass, grass, grins, hands, help, leg, licks, lifts, lost, man, must, past, path, pet, picks, ran, run, scan, small, small, soft, stands, stands, steps, stuck, stuck, tall, thanks, thanks, thick, wind		

Heart Words

Previously Taught: a, and, are, at, big, day, get, got, good, have, he, his, I, in, is, it, last, like, likes, look, my, not, of, on, one, pals, says, so, the, then, they, this, to, up, we, where, you

New: lost

Challenge Words

air, behind, close, Dave's, gives, hear, heart, home, kind, meow, near, place, purrs, quick, scared, smile, sound, space, sways, tree, under, wide

Talking about the Book!

You can use these comprehension questions to test your students' understanding of each story. Their responses can be verbal, or they can point to the answers in the book.

Q: Where did Dave, Jake, and Nate find the lost cat?

A:

Q: How did Dave help the cat when he found it stuck in the tree?

A:

Q: Why do you think the others called Dave brave? What did he do that showed bravery?

A:

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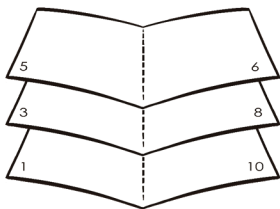
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Booklet Assembly

1. Print settings:
Landscape
2-sided
Flip along short edge
2. Print out the pdf and stack the pages, starting with page 1 on the bottom.
3. Fold the pages along the dotted line and staple the booklet together.

1. Stack



2. Staple



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