

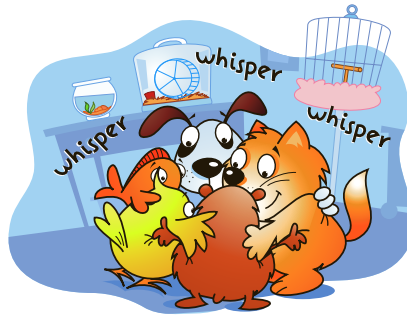
The Smiths and Their Animals

by Elizabeth Wells
illustrated by Nick Diggory



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

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HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

BOSTON

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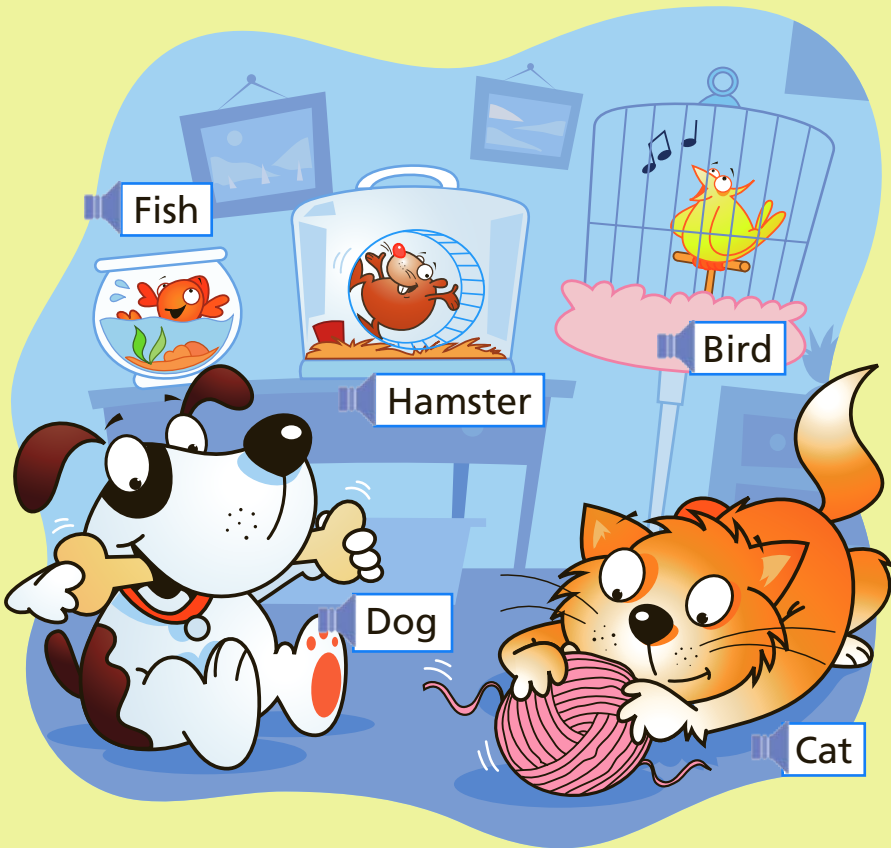
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🔊 In Sam and Carol Smith's house, the animals were busy. The dog chewed on a bone. The cat played with some string. The fish swam in its bowl. The bird sang a song. The hamster ran on its wheel.

🔊 But the Smiths did not look at the animals. They rushed out the door to work.





That morning, the animals talked about the Smiths. The dog said, “When I wag my tail, they do not pat my head.”

The cat said, “When I catch a mouse, they do not say thank you.”

“I swim so well,” said the fish, “and they do not look at me!”

The bird and the hamster nodded. They were unhappy, too.

All the animals were **furious** at the Smiths. “We **demand** more attention!” they shouted. They **gathered** together to think of a plan.

🔊 The next day, the cat waited next to the door. Sam and Carol Smith looked at the cat.

“I would like a carrot and a ball,” said the cat.

The Smiths were **impatient** to leave. “Okay,” they said.



Sam Smith

Carol Smith

🔊 The day after that, the bird asked for a swing and a scooter.

The Smiths looked at each other. A bird could sit on a swing. But could a bird use a scooter?

They did not have time to think about it. “Okay,” they said.



🔊 The next morning, the hamster said, “Wait! I want a baseball cap and a box of cupcakes!”

The Smiths did not understand this at all. But they had to go to work, so they said, “Okay.”



🔊 The next day, the dog said, “Bring me a stapler and a night light.”

Sam Smith frowned. Carol Smith opened her mouth. But they were still too busy to stop. “Okay,” they said.



Then the fish asked for a pair of flip-flops, the kind people wear to the beach. This was silly. Fish have no feet. It is impossible for fish to wear flip-flops. But the Smiths said “Okay,” and rushed out the door.





🔊 The next day, the dog said, “All the animals agree. We each want one hammer and one plane ticket to Paris.”

This time the Smiths could not say “Okay.” Was there a **problem** with the animals? They asked for so many strange things!

At last, the Smiths had an idea.

🔊 “We **believe** we know what is wrong,” said the Smiths. “Would you like more attention?” they asked the animals.

“Yes, please!” shouted the dog, the cat, the bird, the fish, and the hamster.

🔊 The animals stopped asking for strange things. And Sam and Carol Smith stopped rushing to work every day. The Smiths gave their animals what they really wanted—more attention.



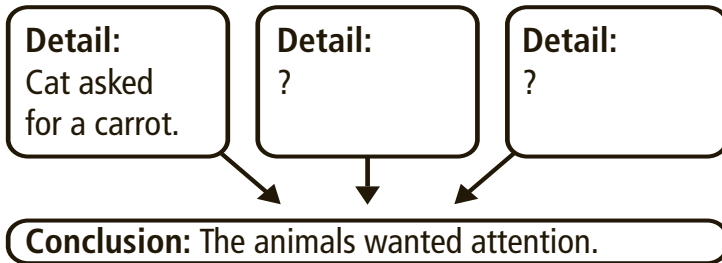
Responding



TARGET SKILL

Conclusions

How did the animals show they wanted attention? Use details from the story to help you draw your conclusion. Copy the chart. Copy the conclusion and add two details in the boxes.



Write About It

Text to Text Think of another story you read about animals. Choose one of the animals in that story. Write a persuasive letter asking for something from another character in the story.



TARGET VOCABULARY

believe
demand
furious
gathered

impatient
impossible
problem
understand



TARGET SKILL

Conclusions Use details to figure out more about the text.



TARGET STRATEGY

Infer/Predict Use clues to figure out more about story parts.



GENRE Humorous fiction is a story that is written to make the reader laugh.

Level: J

DRA: 18

Genre:

Humorous Fiction

Strategy:

Infer/Predict

Skill:

Conclusions

Word Count: 468

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