

Our unit of writing is based on The Mousehole Cat.

You need to look at the activities and choose which is best for you.



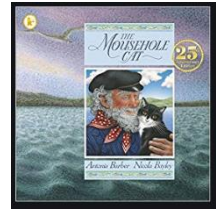
Red hot is for people who want extra challenge.



Spicy is suitable for most.



Mild is good for children who need to build confidence, or have no one to help.

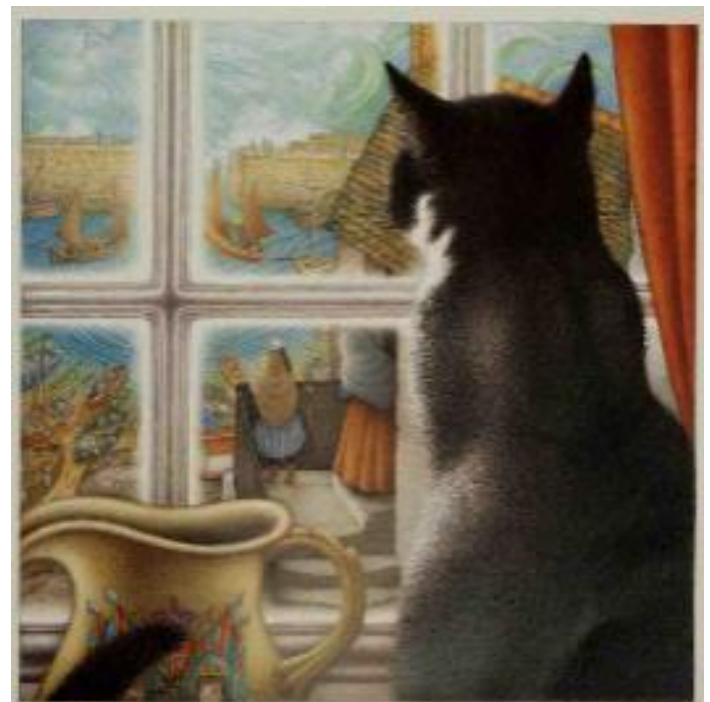


Vocabulary check:

stirring	whined	flung
home-havens	lowering sky	storm-wracked
thought longingly	pilchards	cellars

I have done my best to screenshot clear images of the book. Click on this link to see a free PDF version of the book- but please do not go beyond these pages as it will prevent children making predictions.

<https://epdf.pub/the-mousehole-cat.html>





Then one year there came a terrible winter. At the far end of England the blue-green sea turned grey and black.

The Great Storm-Cat is stirring, thought Mowzer as she watched at her window. The wind whined like a wild thing about the high headlands. It came hunting the fishing boats in their hidden harbours. When the Great Storm-Cat is howling, thought Mowzer, it is best to stay snug indoors by a friendly fire.

The sea drew itself up into giant waves and flung itself against the great breakwaters. All along the coast of Cornwall, the stone walls stood the shock.

Then the sea sucked up its strength again and roared right over them, sinking the sailing boats in their home havens. But it could not get into the Mousehole.

Mowzer watched as the Great Storm-Cat clawed with his giant cat's paw through the gap in the harbour wall. But it was too small.

He snarled and leaped up at the great breakwater under the lowering sky. But it was too high.

The fishing boats sat safe as mice in their own mousehole. But they could not get out.



Do you think that the author really means there is a big cat in the sea?

Why do you think the author says that there is a big paw coming through the Mousehole gap?



And because the fishermen could not fish, there was no more food

They ate up the few vegetables that were left in their storm-wracked gardens. They ate up the salted pilchards that were left in the cellars.

Mowzer hated vegetables and the pilchards were too salty for her taste.

Soon there was nothing left. The cats and their people grew very hungry.

Mowzer sat by her window, staring out at the storm, and thought longingly of morgy-broth and star-gazy pie.

Every day the fishermen gathered on the quayside and sometimes they would try to take a boat out through the Mousehole. But always the Great Storm-Cat lay in wait for them and they were lucky to escape with their lives.





**Red Hot**

The author is telling the story from the viewpoint of the cat. The cat imagines that the storm is another cat. This is called **personification**- describing a thing as if it was alive. How is a storm like a cat?

Task

1. Write a sentence to explain what events the author is describing.
2. Look at the author's words below and find them in the story. Explain what they mean. You might need to talk to someone else to work it out. You can use this table if you wish.

Author's words	Real meaning
The wind whined like a wild thing about the high headlands....	
It came hunting the fishing boats in their hidden harbours....	
The sea sucked up its strength again and roared right over them...	
Great Storm-Cat clawed with his giant cat's paw through the gap in the harbour wall....	
He snarled and leaped up at the great breakwater under the lowering sky...	
Always the Great Storm-Cat lay in wait for them and they were lucky to escape with their lives...	

Success Criteria

Find these words in the text.
Think about the author's real meaning.
Write a short explanation of each hidden meaning



Spicy

The author is telling the story from the viewpoint of the cat. The cat imagines that the storm is another cat. This is called **personification**- describing a thing as if it was alive. How is a storm like a cat?

Task

1. Write a sentence to explain what has happened in this section of story.
2. Look at the author's words below and find them in the story. Explain what they mean. You might need to talk to someone else to work it out. You can use this table if you wish.

Author's words	Real meaning
The blue-green sea turned grey and black....	
The Great Storm-Cat is stirring thought Mowzer...	
When the great Storm-Cat is howling...it is best to stay snug indoors...	
All along the coast of Cornwall, the stone walls stood the shock....	
Always the Great Storm-Cat lay in wait for them and they were lucky to escape with their lives...	

Success Criteria


- |  |
|--|
| Find these words in the text.                    |
| Think about the author's real meaning.           |
| Write a short explanation of each hidden meaning |

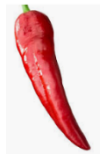


**Mild**

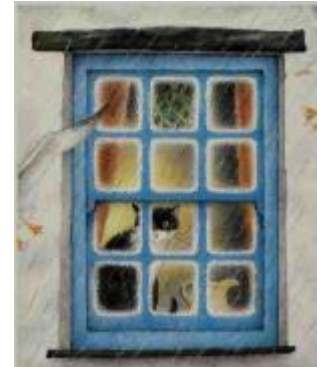
Ask a grown-up to read these pages of the story and talk about the pictures with you.

Write one or two sentences to explain what happened in these parts of the story:

<b>A B C</b> capital letters	 finger spaces	● full stop	<b>Read</b> read it again
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(Look carefully and see the cat face.)



Example



*The Storm-Cat was waiting in the sea to catch the little boats.*