

Cat and Rat

Mofie and Maro



Femi Kayode

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DEDICATION

To my mother of inestimable value, Mrs. Elizabeth Kayode, the one whom God made the engine of my success.

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Foremost, my profound gratitude goes to God Almighty for making me a figure of success. My thanks goes to my beloved mother, Mrs. Kayode who never let my dream go into oblivion, my siblings, my lecturers, especially Dr. Kehinde A. Ayoola and Mr. James Enuma (editors), Mr. James Enuma and Success Toju (illustrators), pastor Festus Adedokun, pastor R. O Salawu, senior pastor Isaac Adesina (I Way Christian Ministry), and the dean very Rev. R. O Agboola (St. Andrews Anglican Cathedral Church, Owo). I say kudos to you all for your pastoral and parental care over my life.

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Finally, I appreciate all the proprietors and proprietresses of Owo LGA. Time'll fail me to mention your names all. I say a million thanks to you all.

FOREWORD

Femi Kayode, the author of *Cat and Rat*, an interesting new book for children, reminds us of the old *Cat and Mouse* story. Everyone expects the rat to go into hiding when a cat enters scene, but this is not the case in this new book. *Cat and Rat* do not necessarily share the same old belief that it is only when the cat is away, the rat takes over the house. Indeed, *Cat and Rat* are parleys in this storybook. That was probably the situation at the beginning of creation.

In spite of the perception of grownups about cats and rats, Femi Kayode teaches young children a few lessons in this humorous and interesting story. *Cat and Rat* teaches children to love one another, share what they have and live in harmony with their peers. The story also teaches children to do away with negative behaviours such as fighting, selfishness and wickedness.

The book is ideal for children in nursery and early primary school. The vocabulary is simple and the grammar is suitable for young children. Hence I recommend the book for use in schools, libraries and homes.

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Chapter One

How Mofie and Maro meet.

Once upon a time, in a little forest, there lived a creature named Mofie. Mofie was a furry friend who loved exploring and going on exciting adventures.

One sunny day, Mofie woke up feeling a bit bored and super hungry.

He sat outside his cute little cave, thinking about all the fun things he could do.

But then, his tummy started to grumble, and he realized he needed some yummy food.

You see, Mofie was a special friend – he was a hunter, which meant he could catch his own food.

But, oh dear, Mofie hadn't caught any animals for a few days.

Feeling a little sad and hungry, he decided it was time to go on a hunting adventure. So, he packed his bag and set off into the bush.

Mofie combed through the bush, looking high and low for an animal for his meal.

But, oh my dear, he couldn't find any! Poor Mofie felt a little down as he returned home, his eyes filled with a mix of sadness and frustration.



Back in his cozy house, Mofie looked around for any yummy leftovers, but there weren't any to be found. He sighed and decided to stay calm, taking a big yawn. Maybe a little nap would make him feel better.

The next day, Mofie woke up with a big stretch, feeling determined to fill his tummy. He decided to head back to the bush for another hunting adventure.

With his bag packed, he made his way to the center of the bush, ready to find some tasty treats.

As he searched, Mofie spotted Maro at a distance. Maro, who didn't have a specific home, was coming from his farm, which was quite far away.

Seeing Mofie and being a smart animal, Maro got ready to make a quick escape.



Mofie, not wanting to let his chance slip away, decided to hide and then waited for the perfect moment to catch Maro.

When Maro saw Mofie, he knew Mofie was a determined hunter, so he prepared to run. Mofie, noticing that Maro wasn't coming closer, decided to chase after him.

They had a playful chase, with Maro running as fast as he could and Mofie hurt on his heels.

However, Maro, being clever, managed to escape by darting into a hole.

Mofie waited patiently by the hole, hoping Maro would come out, but Maro stayed inside all day.





As the day grew older, Mofie sadly returned home, still hungry but hopeful for a new adventure tomorrow. And so, Mofie's exciting journey continued, full of surprises and a little bit of mischief. The end of another day in Mofie's world.

Chapter Two

Mofie's Next Attempt

One sunny day, Mofie woke up with a big yawn, feeling a bit hungry and ready for another hunting adventure.

Mofie was a skilled hunter, with sharp claws and alert whiskers. That day, he was on a mission to catch some prey for his meal. With determination in his eyes, Mofie mewed along the way as he ventured into the bush. He walked a little distance away from his cozy house, exploring the wild like a brave little hunter. Mofie, being a mischievous creature, decided to hide around the bush, seeking the perfect spot to catch his prey. As he rested and waited, he spotted Maro coming close. Now, Mofie in full hunter mode, couldn't resist adding a bit of drama to his approach.



From his hiding spot, he sternly exclaimed, "Stop there, you little animal! Do not move an inch. If you move, I will catch you with my claws!".

Mofie's eyes beamed with determination, focused on his goal. He was fully immersed in his hunt, ready to pounce and catch his prey.

Mofie raised up his forelimbs, showing off his claws for a real attack. Ready for action, he fastened his lower limbs to the ground, just in case he needed to run. He waited and waited, but Maro, a little creature from the village, didn't move closer. Maro knew it might be dangerous to play too close, so he stood still like a statue.



"Mew! Mew! Mew!", Mofie sounded repeatedly, alerting everyone in the bush. The whole place felt a bit like a lively jungle. Mofie, being a brave hunter, scared Maro a lot. He even swipped his claws at Maro and spat a little, he nearly crushed his head with his claws.

Maro was so surprised and a little afraid, opening his mouth in astonishment.

As Mofie and Maro faced each other, the little Mofie continued to feel scared. "Eek! Eek! Eek!", he exclaimed.

"Shut up!", Mofie commanded. "Did I ask you to make any sound?", he asked in an angry tone. Maro, feeling a bit confused, stammered, "Yes! Yes! No! ... No Yes. I am sorry. I mean No."



Mofie adjusted himself, looking serious. "Now, tell me. What is your family name? And where are you coming from?", he asked with his whiskers alert.

Maro, feeling a soft fear, stammered as he answered, "I am an animal. My name is Rat. I am coming from my farm, where I grow different crops. I grow yam, maize, cassava, and all types of crops".

Mofie, secretly pleased with the answer, pretended otherwise. "Yuck! How does that concern me?", he said in a pretend-disinterested tone.

Then, Maro begged gently, "Please, do not kill me. My farm crops are more than my meat. So, if you kill me, my meat will not be enough for you, please", he said with a plea in his voice.

Mofie, moving closer with an unconscious sound, asked, "Okay, what can I do for you now, little Rat? Mew! Mew!! Mew!!!".

Surprisingly, the sound of Mofie's mews was pleasant to Maro. So, despite his fear, he danced a little to the rhythm. "Sorry, I can't answer this question. I am afraid. Eek! Eek!! Eek!!! Please, don't just kill me", he answered, hoping for mercy.



As Mofie and Maro continued their interaction, something unexpected happened. Mofie found himself dancing to the sweet sounds Maro was making.

"Why are you shaking your body? You do not seem to be afraid of me. Or, don't you know I am talking to you?", Mofie asked, a bit surprised by the turn of events.

"No, not at all. If you don't mind, I am not shaking. But I am dancing to the sweet sound coming out of your mouth", Maro replied with a smile.

Mofie, even more surprised, exclaimed, "Wow! I should be the first to tell you that, Rat. I like the sound you make too".



In their newfound joy, they both danced happily to their unique sounds. They hugged each other, and in that special moment, they became friends.

Mofie, feeling a connection with Maro, agreed with him, and together they headed home.

Chapter Three

The friendship of Mofie and Maro

Now that Mofie and Maro were friends, they did everything together. They talked, ate, and even lived in the same cave. The cave was in a nice place, and they enjoyed good food because Maro brought delicious things from his farm.

Their friendship brought peace and happiness to their lives. At night, after a good sleep, they poke their heads out of the cave to feel the fresh breeze and enjoy the night. Then, as the early morning light started to appear, just before the sun rises, they woke up with the gentle dawn. They'd had a restful sleep, and now it's time for them to go to work.



Maro was the first to wake up, eager to start the day. He wanted to wake Mofie and share the morning with his friend.

"Cat! Wake up. It is daybreak. Wake up," he called, but Mofie didn't seem to respond.

"Oh! Cat, wake up now. I am going to the farm", Maro said, feeling a bit bothered. Puzzled, he wondered, "Why is Cat used to sleeping like this?". Determined to rouse his friend, he urged, "Come on, Cat, wake up. However, the sweet embrace of sleep still held Mofie.

He found Maro's helpful calls more of a disturbance than good and then squeezed his face in disapproval.

Not giving up, Maro gently touched Mofie's tail to see if that would do the trick. Mofie, still in dreamland, kept his eyes tightly closed. Undeterred, Maro then touched his head. Mofie continued to snooze softly,

making little snoring sounds like, "Mew! Miaow! Fe-al!".

"What is it?", he mumbled, responding to Maro's attempt to wake him.

"Nothing. I just want to tell you that it is daybreak, in case you want to go hunting", Maro explained.



Feeling a bit groggy, Mofie replied, "Well, I am going to the farm now. Take care of yourself, okay".

Mofie was still feeling sleepy, but he tried to express his gratitude, "Yes. I heard you. Thank you. I still want to have a little nap. I will wake up soon. I will pass through your farm to greet you. Thank you, Rat".

"You are welcome! Okay, bye-bye", Maro replied.

They both exchanged friendly goodbyes, and Maro went on his way, leaving Mofie to enjoy a little more sleep before the adventures of the day unfolded.

Chapter Four

The Diligent Work of the Two Animals

In the bright morning, Maro was busy in his farm, working very hard. He made heaps for planting yam seeds, getting ready for the next season. In the middle of his farm, there was a hollow dead palm tree.

As Mofie walked by, he decided to have some playful fun. "Hoo!!!", he called out to Maro. "Hoo!!!", he called again.

Maro, hearing the sound from a distance, thought it might be a wild animal, and so it scared him a little. Quickly, he ran and hid in the hole of a palm wood, peeping out carefully. From his hiding place, no animal could see him, and he wondered about the mysterious voice.



Maro, realizing it was just his mischievous friend, confidently came out from his hiding spot and responded, "Hoo!!! ... Yes, I am here", and they moved closer. The two friends shared a moment of laughter.

"You have really worked on your farm so much today. Wow! You have planted so many cassava stems just during the time I was still sleeping", Mofie exclaimed in surprise.

"Are you sure it was when you left me sleeping this early morning that you just covered all these?", he asked, still astonished. "Yes, it was just that time", Maro answered confidently. Mofie continued to express his surprise, but Maro reassured him, "You should not be surprised. It is good to be hardworking".

"I still have to plant corns before I go back home. Maize plants grow well in this season," Maro said, sharing his plans for the

rest of the day. And so, the two friends chatted and laughed together in the bright sunlight, enjoying each other's company and the joys of their hard work.



"Okay, I am on my way to the bush to hunt," Mofie says.

"Okay, I wish you hunting luck," Maro says.

Mofie responds, "Thank you".

"You are welcome", Maro answers.

And so, Mofie headed to the bush for hunting. Meanwhile, Maro's farm continued to prosper, producing many crops. In the evening, Maro was already in the house, satisfied with the fruits of his hard work.

Before long, Mofie came back with sadness on his face. He was so sad because, once again, he returned home empty-handed. He hadn't caught any animals during his hunting trip.

Despite the disappointment, Maro, being a good friend, welcomed Mofie back with understanding and compassion.



"Cat, what happened? You look so sad and dull. I hope wild animals have not done harm to you in the bush," Maro asks with concern.

Mofie responds reluctantly, "No, not at all." He then puffed up with pride and added, "What is that animal? Are there animals that are as bold as me in the bush? Mew!"

Maro bursted into laughter, his tail shaking. "Do you think there are no animals bolder than you out there?", he asked with amusement in his voice.

"One day, I saw an animal that looked like you. But it did not see me, else it would have killed me," Maro explains, emphasizing the wild nature of some creatures.

Surprised by the revelation, Mofie remarked, "So, there are still other animals that are wilder than me!"

"Yes, wilder, wilder in the wilderness!", boasted Maro, confidently waving his tail. "As a farmer, I've encountered all sorts of animals, gentle and wild".

Mofie, still processing the information, expressed disbelief. "Really! But that may not be true", he said.

"Yes, don't be surprised. It is real", Maro reassured.

Mofie, not entirely convinced, asked, "Are you sure?".

"Yes, of course", Maro answered.

After their chat, they went inside the house. Maro prepared and cooked yummy food. After a delicious dinner, they both got cozy for the night, happy in each other's company with full tummies and joyful hearts.

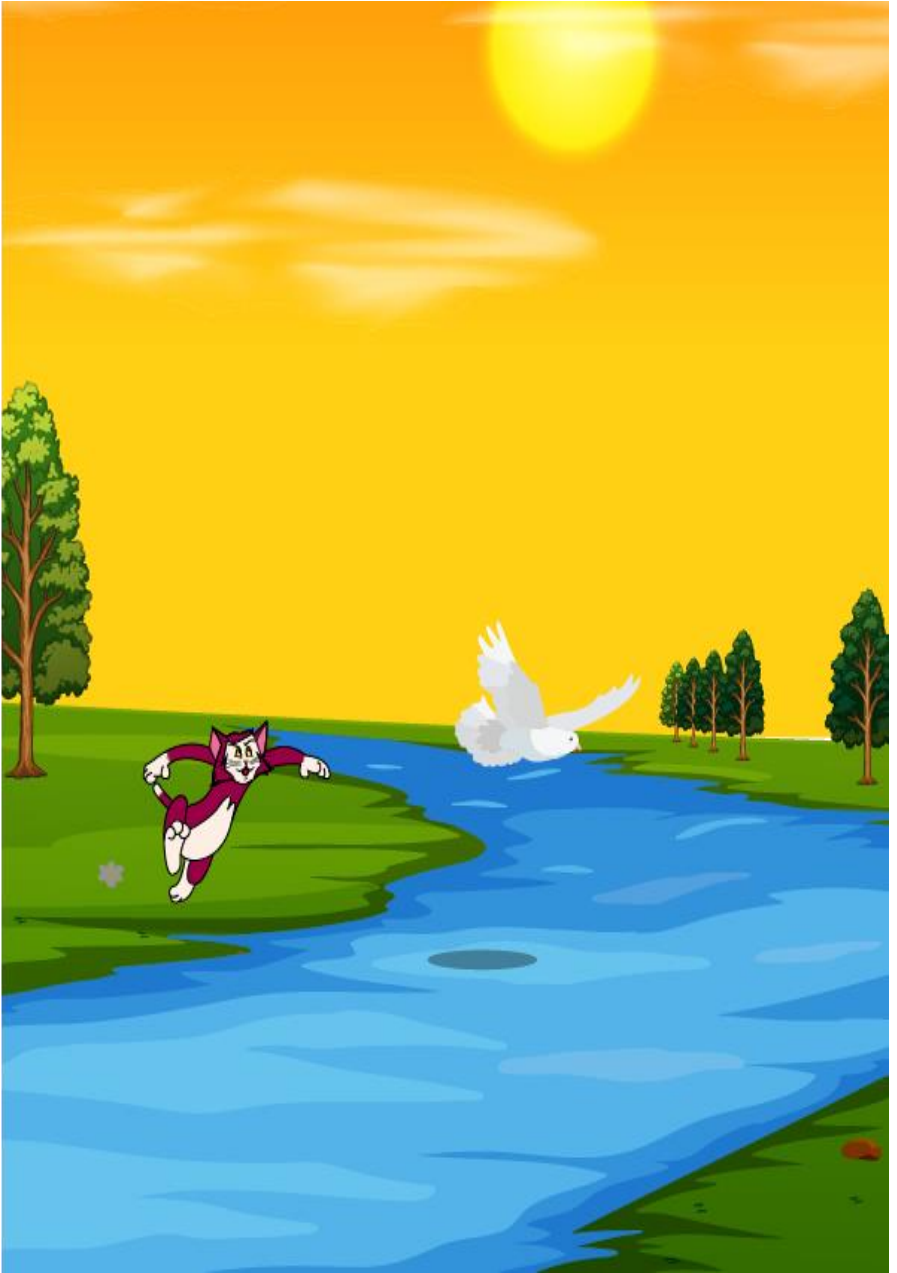
Chapter Five

The Bad Luck of Mofie

On the next day, Mofie sets out for another hunting adventure, determined to catch some prey. He ventures deeper into the bush, eyes wide open for any signs of animals.

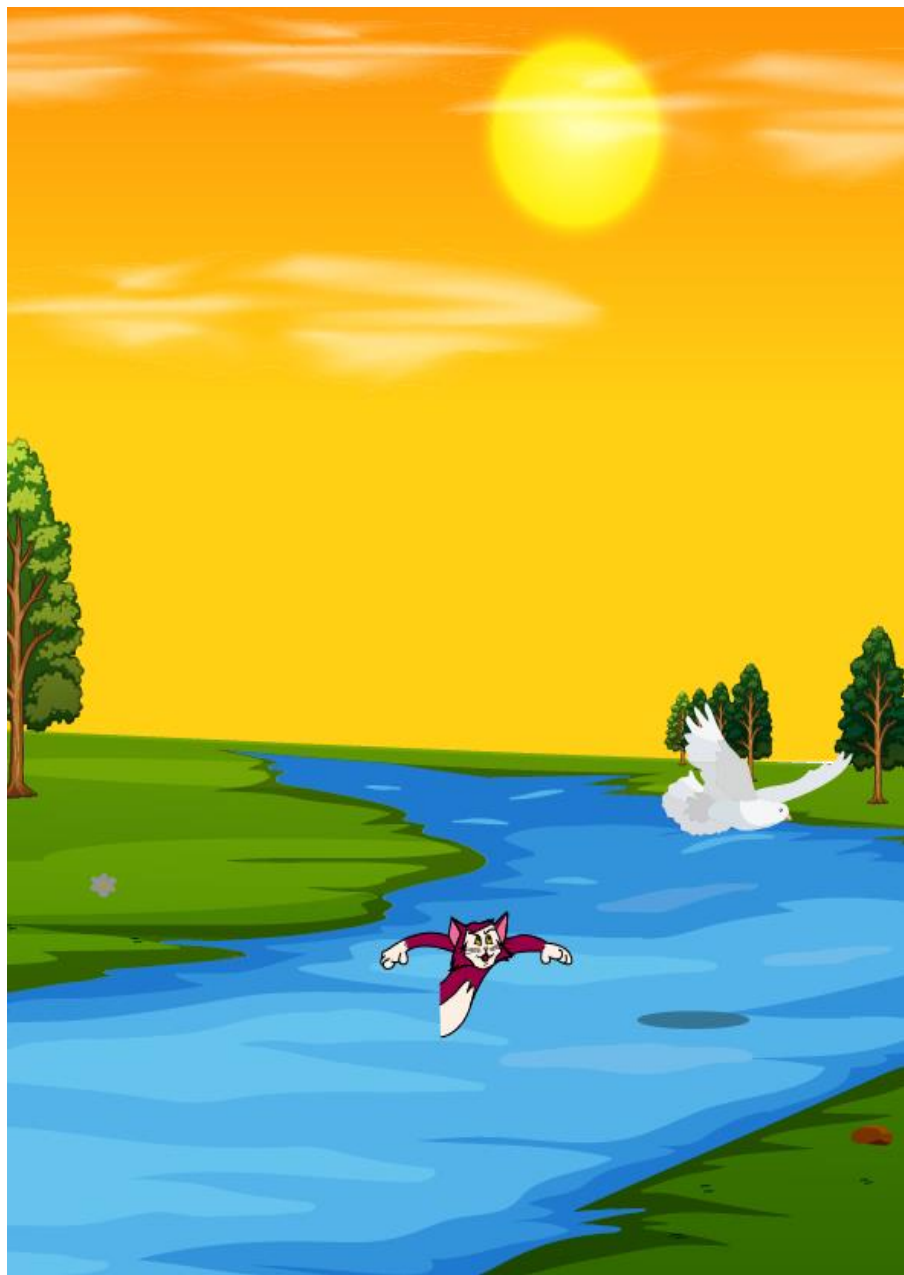
After a while, he spots a shadow moving on the ground. Excitement rushes through him as he anticipates a potential catch. Focused on his prey, he follows the shadow, believing it's an animal walking on land.

As the shadow continues to move, Mofie pursues it eagerly. It turns out to be the shadow of a flying bird, a dove. Realizing his mistake, Mofie looks up and sees the dove gracefully gliding through the sky.



Undeterred, Mofie shifts his attention to the dove above, thinking it will soon alight on a tree or land where he can make his move to catch it. Little does he know that this hunting pursuit might not go as planned.

Mofie continues his pursuit until he gets close to the river and, without thinking, carelessly enters it.



In no time, he finds himself in trouble. The river nearly swallows him, making him feel confused and scared. His fur gets soaked, and he drinks too much water, almost facing a dangerous situation. He drifts along the river's course, fortunately reaching a shallow area where he manages to crawl out.

On the riverbank, he stays for a long time, feeling helpless. His eyes turn yellow due to the challenging condition.

Somehow, he summons the strength to get closer to the house. When he realizes he's on his last breath, he screams, "Mew! Rat!". However, Maro doesn't hear the call as it's from a far distance.

Undeterred, Mofie crawled closer and called out again, "Rat! Mew!". This time, Maro caught a whiff of the calls but didn't recognize Mofie's voice. Filled with fear, Maro stood up and traced the voice, trying

to identify its source. As he approached, the voice grew louder, urging him forward until he saw that it was Mofie. In a flurry, Maro rushed to his friend, scooped him up for rescue, and dragged him home. At home, he arranged for Mofie's comfort, offering warmth, care, and solace to his unfortunate friend.

Chapter Six

The Care of Maro for Mofie

But, on this special day, something unfortunate happens. A drought arrives, and it stays for a long time, causing a famine. This means that almost all the animals have moved to other places where Mofie can't reach them. Even Maro can only grow a few crops in this difficult situation.

So, here we find Maro, still working hard in the farm.

Mofie sits at the door of the house, looking at his surroundings with a sense of hopelessness. But Maro, being a good friend, cooks yam in the farm and brought it home.

"Mew!!!" Mofie yawns uncontrollably.



"Cat, why are you yawning?" Maro asks.

"Animals yawn for three reasons - when they're tired, hungry, or sleepy. Which one of them makes you yawn, Cat?" Maro asks, curious about his friend's feelings.

Mofie yawns again. "What did you just say now? I did not even hear what you said. It seems something has affected my ears", he answers.

Maro understands him. "Aha! Why?", he asks.

"Pardon! I am listening", Mofie says. "What did you ask me to do?" he asks.

"I did not ask you anything. But I tried to tell you that three things cause animals to yawn - tiredness, hunger, and sleep. Which of them makes you yawn?", Maro asks again.

Mofie responds with an unhappy voice. "You should know what worries me actually.

Since you left for the farm, I have not eaten anything. Let me spill the beans. I am hungry", he says sincerely.

Okay, you should have told me. Here is a cooked tuber of yam. I brought it from the farm. But it is too hot. Take", he gives Mofie the yam.

Mofie collects it hurriedly. "Okay, I think the food should cool down in some minutes or so", he says.

Maro tries to guess the actual time. "Um! Yes, but I am not sure of the actual time," he answers. Mofie does not wait for the yam to cool; he starts to eat the food.

"I hope it is not too hot", says Maro. "No, it is not," he answers. "Okay", Maro says, then continues eating.

"Achoo! Achoo!! Achoo!!!", Mofie sneezes suddenly.

"Bless you", Maro wishes Mofie good health.

"Thank you", Mofie says.

"You are welcome," Maro answers.

A long silence stretches between them. Suddenly, Mofie breaks the quiet with a sigh of relief, letting out a big "Phew!".

Maro thinks Mofie might have swallowed something wrong, like pepper or food. He quickly rushes to Mofie's side to help.

"Easy there, cat! Take it easy!", he says gently, holding his arms up to catch Mofie if he falls.

Mofie can't help but burst into laughter. "No worries, I'm okay! I was just trying to scare you", he says through giggles.

They both share a hearty laugh as they head back inside. In the midst of their laughter and playful moments, Mofie and Maro find

comfort and joy in each other's company. Even during tough times, they knew how to turn things around and find happiness and laughter together.

Chapter Seven

The Relief of Mofie and His Attempt to Kill an Animal

Mofie had been feeling unwell, but with Maro's care, he was finally getting better. He was mostly recovered, but his leg still ached a bit.

One bright morning, Mofie woke up and surprised Maro with a bold announcement. "Hi Rat", he chirped, "I want to go hunting!"

Maro was taken aback. "Excuse me, what did you say?", he asked, sitting up and paying close attention.

"I want to go hunting!", Mofie repeated", his eyes gleaming with excitement.

Maro furrowed his brows, "Have you forgotten about your leg? It still hurts, you know".

Mofie waved his tail dismissively. "Don't worry about that, Rat. I can handle it. I can't just stay here and do nothing!".

Maro knew Mofie, and he knew how important hunting was to him. But he also knew that Mofie's leg wasn't fully healed yet. He didn't want Mofie to get hurt again.

"I appreciate your enthusiasm, Cat", Maro began gently, "but I'm afraid I can't support this yet. Your leg still needs time to heal completely. I don't want you to get hurt again, do I?".

Mofie looked down at his leg, a slight frown forming on his face. He understood Maro's concern, but he hated feeling helpless. He wanted to prove that he was strong and capable again.

"Alright, if you really want to," agreed Maro. "Just take it easy, Cat", he reminded him gently.

Mofie, eager for an adventure, scampered into the forest. He crept quietly through the undergrowth, hiding behind leaves and branches.

Soon, he spotted a fluffy squirrel scampering around a tree. He couldn't help but get excited and forget about his sore leg. He started chasing the squirrel with all his might.



But the squirrel was quick and nimble, and he easily outpaced Mofie. In no time, he vanished into a tiny hole in the ground.

Mofie came close to the hole and sniffed the air, hoping to find the squirrel's scent. He was too big to fit inside, so he patiently waited for it to come out.

He waited and waited, but the squirrel seemed to be enjoying its safe hiding place. Mofie tried digging around the hole with his claws, but the ground was too hard to budge.



As the sun started to set, Mofie knew it was time to head home. He was tired and a bit disappointed, but he had learned a valuable lesson. Even the most determined hunters need to listen to their bodies and be patient.

He turned and slowly walked back home, eager to rest and tell Maro about his adventure, even though he didn't catch anything.

Chapter Eight

The Joy of Mofie, And the enmity of Mofie and Maro

Now, the next day, Mofie head to the bush. Luckily, he came across the squirrel. He then chased it and successfully caught it. As a hunter who had managed to catch an animal once again, he was over the moon. He joyfully sang this song:

*Mew mew miaow
In the hunting ground,
I prowl, Claws ready,
I stalk the prey
Squirrel's sweet meat,
here it lay
Mew and eek,
a hunter's feat
Yes, we'll eat! Yes, we'll eat
We'll eat more
Yes! I eat much
Much more, much more
Mew mew ... Mew.*

Celebrating his successful hunt, Mofie expressed his joy through a cheerful song, celebrating the thrill of the chase and the satisfaction of a delicious meal to come.



Mofie scampered home, holding the fluffy squirrel tight in his paws. His tail swished with excitement!

He reached the house and called out, "Rat! Rat! Guess what I found? I outsmarted a sneaky squirrel today!".

Maro, who was collecting firewood, peeked out with a surprised grin. "Wow, Cat! That's amazing! You're a clever hunter!", he admired the plump squirrel, his tummy rumbling a little because he was very hungry.

"Tell me all about it!" Maro exclaimed, pulling up a log by the fire. "Did you chase it through the trees? Did you use your sneaky tricks?".

Mofie puffed up his chest, happy to share his adventure. He described waiting patiently near the squirrel's hiding place, using his keen eyes to track its movements, and finally

winning the prize with his quick thinking. Maro listened with wide eyes, laughing at Mofie's playful descriptions, and cheering for his bravery.

"Today's a day to remember!", Maro declared, giving Mofie a high five. "You were so patient and smart! Now, let's celebrate with a feast fit for a champion hunter!".

"I am going to roast the squirrel, I have collected some firewood, you may still get more in the forest, why don't you go back into the forest in this high spirit while I roast the squirrel", Said Maro.

Mofie skipped back into the forest, his tail swirling like a furry propeller.

He couldn't stop purring, "Mew! Mew! Mew!" with so much joy bubbling inside.

Maro watched him go, a big smile spreading across his face. "Wow, Cat's having a lucky

day! Life is awesome, just like he shows us! He's so happy you can practically see it!"

Mofie, feeling like he was floating on sunshine, bounced back into the forest. Meanwhile,

Maro got busy preparing their feast. He gathered firewood, built a cozy fire, and then put the meat over the flames to roast.

The delicious smell soon filled the air, making Maro's tummy rumble like a little drum. He couldn't help but sneak a tiny bite... then another... and another... Soon, the whole meal was gone!



Maro finished the delicious meal, a bit of guilt gnawing at his tummy. He'd gobbled it all down without waiting for Mofie! Heaving a sigh, he tidied up, hoping his friend wouldn't be too grumpy.

Meanwhile, Mofie had explored the bushes, a playful breeze rustling through his whiskers.

Though he hadn't found any other animals, the fresh air had refreshed him. He skipped back home, eager to share the roast with Maro and recount his adventure.

"I'm back!", Mofie chirped, but his excited meow froze in his throat. The roasting meat was gone, and no Maro was in sight. "Maro?", he called out, a hint of confusion in his voice.

Maro, peeking nervously from behind a rock, his ears drooped lower than a wilted flower. "Uh... hello, Mofie. I... um... it's all gone," he

mumbled. Mofie blinked, his whisker twitching in surprise. "The meat? What do you mean?"

Maro's voice shrunk to a squeak. "I... I ate it. I was hungry, and I thought maybe you'd find another animal while it was gone".

Mofie's frown deepened, but soon his whiskers softened. He understood belly rumbles better than anyone.

"But Mofie", Maro whimpered, his ears flattened like pancakes, "I'm so sorry! I'll do anything to make it up to you!" Before Maro could finish explaining, Mofie's fur bristled like a prickly bush. His claws flashed out, snatching Maro by the tail. The shock sent Maro's remaining fur flying as he yelped in surprise.

Seizing the opportunity, Maro twisted free and darted away. Mofie chased him around the fire till sunset.



"That's why Cat and Rat are still enemies, and Rat's tail is missing much of its fur."

The End

Revision Questions

Chapter One

1. What is Mofie's favourite thing to do in the forest?
2. Why did Mofie decide to go on a hunting adventure?
3. Why did Maro run away from Mofie?
4. What clever thing did Maro do to escape from Mofie?
5. How did Mofie feel when Maro stayed inside the hole?

Chapter Two

1. Why did Mofie go into the bush?
2. What did Maro say about his farm and the crops he grows?

3. What did Mofie and Maro end up doing together?
4. Why did Mofie start dancing to Maro's sweet sounds?

Chapter Three

1. Where do Mofie and Maro live?
2. What do Mofie and Maro do at night?
3. Who wakes up first in the morning?
4. What does Maro do to wake up Mofie?
5. How does Mofie respond when Maro tries to wake him?
6. Where does Maro go in the morning?

Chapter Four

1. What was Maro doing in his farm in the morning?

2. What did Mofie do to have playful fun with Maro?
3. Why did Maro hide when he heard Mofie's calls?
4. What did Maro and Mofie talk about in the bright sunlight?
5. What did Maro wish Mofie before he went hunting?

Chapter Five

1. What did Mofie think he saw moving on the ground?
2. What kind of bird did Mofie see in the sky?
3. Why did Mofie go into the river?
4. What happened to Mofie in the river?
5. Why did Mofie feel helpless on the riverbank?

Chapter Six

1. Why is there a difficult situation in Mofie and Maro's village?
2. What does Maro bring home for Mofie during the famine?
3. What are the three reasons Maro mentions for animals yawning?
4. Why does Mofie say his ears are affected?
5. What does Maro give Mofie to eat?

Chapter Seven

1. Why was Maro concerned about Mofie going hunting?
2. How did Mofie reassure Maro about his leg?
3. What did Mofie do in the forest?

4. Who did Mofie spot in the forest?
5. What happened when Mofie chased the squirrel?

Chapter Eight

1. What did Mofie catch in the forest?
2. How did Mofie feel after catching the squirrel?
3. Why did Maro eat the roasted meat without waiting for Mofie?
4. How did Mofie feel about Maro eating the meat?
5. What did Mofie do when he caught Maro by the tail?
6. How did Maro feel about the whole situation?

Answers

Chapter One

1. Mofie loves exploring and having exciting adventures.
2. Mofie was hungry, so he wanted to catch some food in the forest.
3. Maro knew Mofie was a determined hunter, so he ran away.
4. Maro escaped by going into a hole.
5. Mofie felt sad because he couldn't catch Maro.

Chapter Two

1. Mofie went into the bush to catch prey for his meal.
2. Maro said he grows yam, maize, cassava, and all types of crops on his farm.
3. Mofie and Maro ended up dancing happily and becoming friends.
4. Mofie found himself dancing because he enjoyed the sweet sounds Maro was making.

Chapter Three

1. They live in the same cave.
2. They poke their heads out of the cave, feel the fresh breeze, and enjoy the night.
3. Maro is the first to wake up.
4. Maro calls and touches Mofie to wake him up.

5. Mofie responds by mumbling and expressing his gratitude.
6. Maro goes to his farm.

Chapter Four

1. Maro was working hard in his farm, preparing heaps for planting yam seeds.
2. Mofie called out "Hoo!!!" to Maro as he walked by.
3. Maro thought it might be a wild animal, and it scared him a little.
4. They talked about Maro's hard work on the farm and Mofie's plans to go hunting.
5. Maro wished Mofie hunting luck.

Chapter Five

1. Mofie thought he saw the shadow of an animal.
2. Mofie saw a dove.
3. Mofie went into the river without thinking while pursuing the dove.
4. Mofie found himself in trouble, nearly swallowed by the river.
5. Mofie felt helpless because he was wet, confused, and scared.

Chapter Six

1. There is a drought causing a famine, and many animals have moved away.
2. Maro brings cooked yam for Mofie.
3. Animals yawn when they're tired, hungry, or sleepy.
4. Mofie is not paying attention because he's too hungry and tired.

5. Maro gives Mofie a cooked tuber of yam.

Chapter Seven

1. Mofie's leg still hurt a bit.
2. Mofie said he could handle it.
3. Mofie hid and chased a squirrel.
4. A fluffy squirrel.
5. The squirrel escaped into a hole.

Chapter Eight

1. Mofie caught a squirrel.
2. Mofie felt over the moon and sang a joyful song.
3. Maro was hungry and thought Mofie might find more animals while he roasted.
4. Mofie was confused and unhappy.

5. Mofie chased Maro around the fire until sunset.
6. Maro felt guilty for eating the meat without waiting for Mofie.

GLOSSARY

1. **Combed:** Looked through or searched carefully.
2. **Frustration:** Feeling upset or annoyed when things don't go the way you want.
3. **Determined:** Having a strong desire to do something and not giving up easily.
4. **Escape:** To get away quickly or avoid something.
5. **Darting:** Moving quickly in a sudden, swift manner.
6. **Patiently:** Waiting without getting upset, often with hope.
7. **Ventured:** Explored or went on an adventure.
8. **Mischievous:** Playful in a naughty or cheeky way.

9. **Immersed:** Fully involved or absorbed in something.
10. **Exclaimed:** Said something suddenly and loudly, often in surprise or anger.
11. **Forelimbs:** Front legs or arms of an animal.
12. **Pounce:** To jump or spring on something suddenly.
13. **Stammered:** Spoke with difficulty, often pausing or repeating words.
14. **Whiskers:** Long, sensitive hairs on the face of some animals, like cats.
15. **Pretend-disinterested:** Acting as if you are not interested when you really are.
16. **Unconscious:** Done without thinking or awareness.

17. **Dawn:** The early light before the sun rises.
18. **Bothered:** Feeling a little annoyed or disturbed.
19. **Determined:** Having a strong desire to do something and not giving up easily.
20. **Undeterred:** Not discouraged or stopped by something.
21. **Groggy:** Feeling sleepy or drowsy.
22. **Gratitude:** Thankfulness or appreciation.
23. **Embrace:** A hug or a close, affectionate hold.
24. **Heaps:** A lot or a large amount.
25. **Mischievous:** Playful in a naughty or cheeky way.
26. **Astonished:** Very surprised or shocked.

27. **Prosper:** To grow well or be successful.
28. **Reluctantly:** Doing something without really wanting to.
29. **Wilderness:** A wild and natural area, often with few people.
30. **Encountered:** Came across or met.
31. **Anticipates:** Looks forward to or expects something.
32. **Undeterred:** Not discouraged or stopped by something.
33. **Carelessly:** Without paying attention or being cautious.
34. **Flurry:** A lot of things happening quickly.
35. **Solace:** Comfort or consolation in a time of distress.
36. **Ventures:** Goes somewhere new or unknown.

37. **Pursues:** Follows or chases something.
38. **Prosper:** To grow well or be successful.
39. **Famine:** a situation where there is not enough food for everyone.
40. **Heaps:** a lot or large quantity of something.
41. **Mischievous:** playful in a naughty or cheeky way.
42. **Yawn:** when you open your mouth wide and breathe in because you're tired, hungry, or sleepy.
43. **Tuber:** a thick, fleshy part of a plant that grows underground and can be eaten (e.g., yam).
44. **Sincerely:** honestly and genuinely.
45. **Silence:** complete absence of sound.

46. **Relief:** the feeling of comfort when something worrying or painful ends.
47. **Pepper:** a spicy seasoning.
48. **Hearty:** strong and healthy.
49. **Enthusiasm:** being very excited about doing something.
50. **Dismissively:** ignoring or not taking something seriously.
51. **Scampered:** ran quickly and lightly.
52. **Undergrowth:** the small plants and bushes growing under the trees.
53. **Nimble:** able to move quickly and easily.
54. **Budge:** to move or shift.
55. **Patently:** waiting calmly without getting upset.
56. **Determined:** having a strong desire to do something.

57. **Valuable:** something important or worth learning.
58. **Patiently:** waiting without getting upset, even when it takes a long time.
59. **Over the moon:** extremely happy or excited.
60. **Prowl:** to move quietly and carefully, especially when hunting.
61. **Sneaky:** behaving in a secretive or sly way.
62. **Outsmarted:** to be more clever or intelligent than someone else.
63. **Feast:** a large and special meal.
64. **Propeller:** a spinning device that moves an object through the air.
65. **Rumble:** a low, continuous sound.
66. **Gnawing:** a continuous, dull pain or discomfort.

67. **Twitching:** a quick, small movement.
68. **Bristled:** to become stiff with anger or irritation.

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