

Spelling starter

Use the pyramid strategy to spell these words

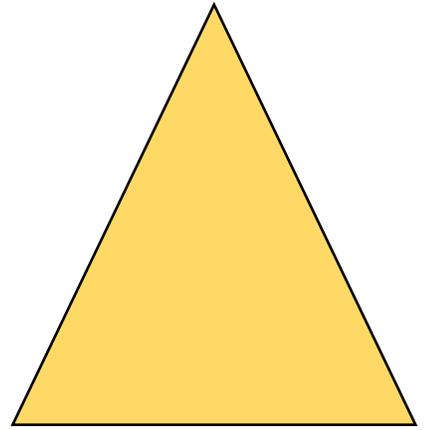
arrive

believe

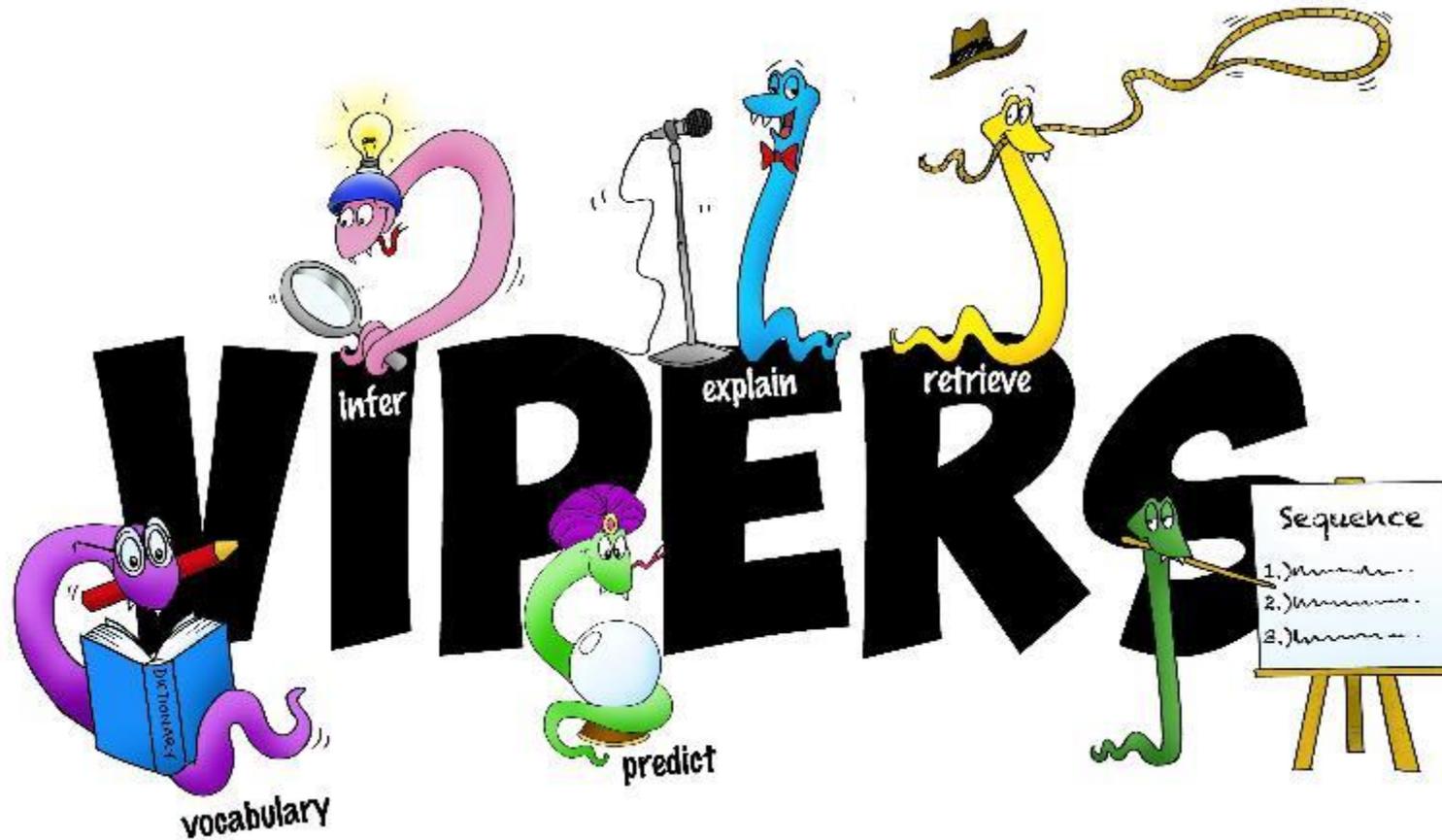
bicycle

breath

breathe



We are reading the story of Papa Piccolo, **so that** we can use our reading comprehension skills to answer questions.





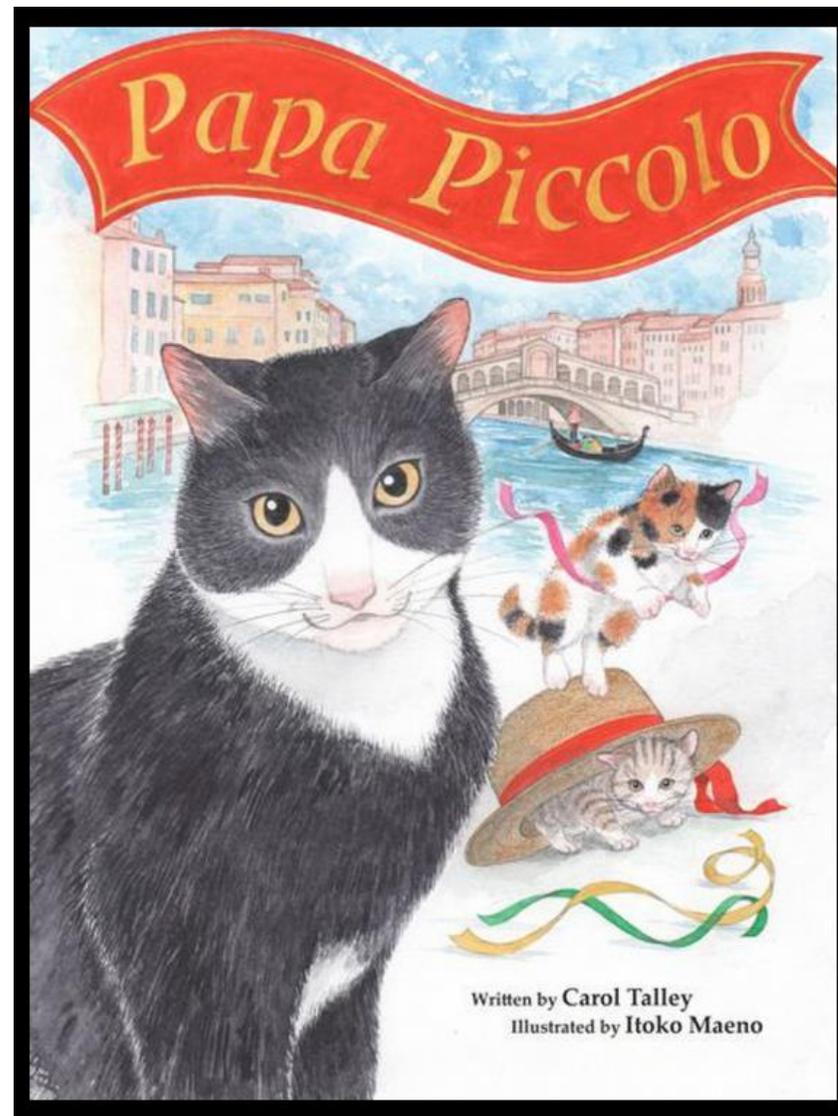
Last week we read the first part of Papa Piccolo.



What has happened in the story so far?

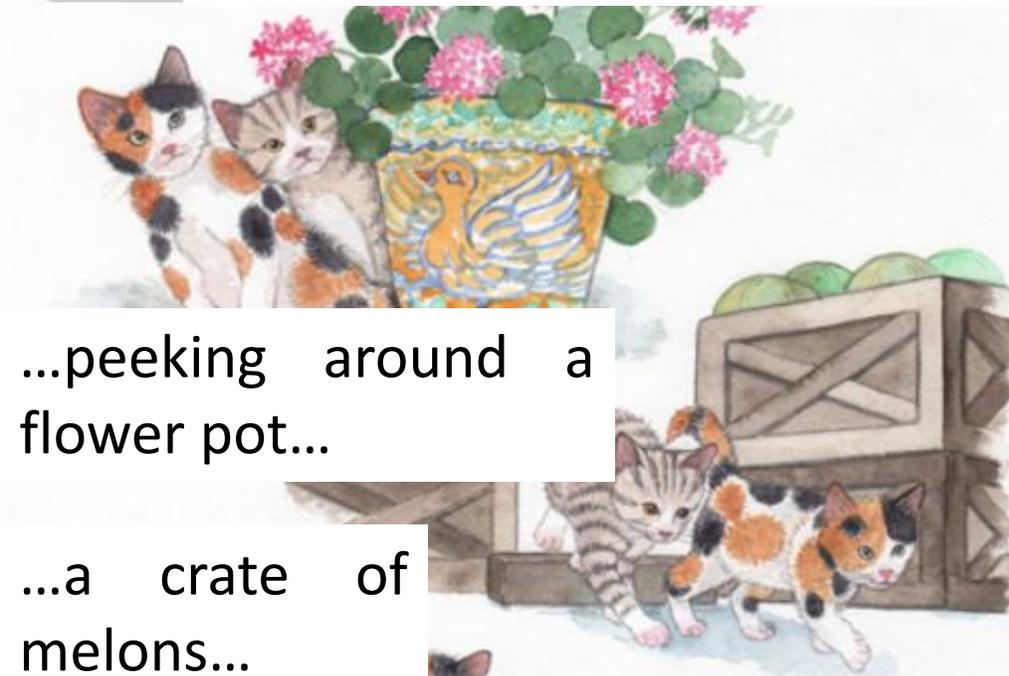


What do you think will happen next in the story?





But there is nothing more playful than a kitten and nothing more persistent than one who has been fed. Wherever Piccolo went that day, the spotted kitten and the striped kitten were close behind

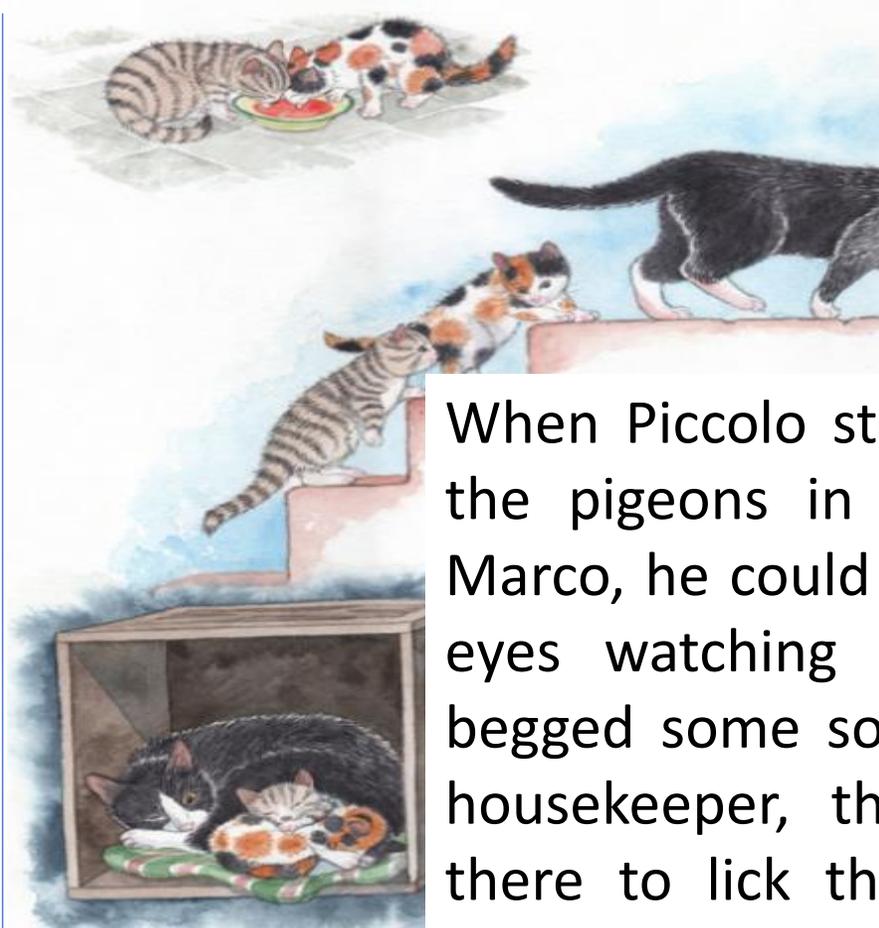


...peeking around a flower pot...

...a crate of melons...



...a stack of straw hats...



When Piccolo stopped to watch the pigeons in the Piazza San Marco, he could feel the kittens' eyes watching him. When he begged some soup from a busy housekeeper, the kittens were there to lick the saucer clean.

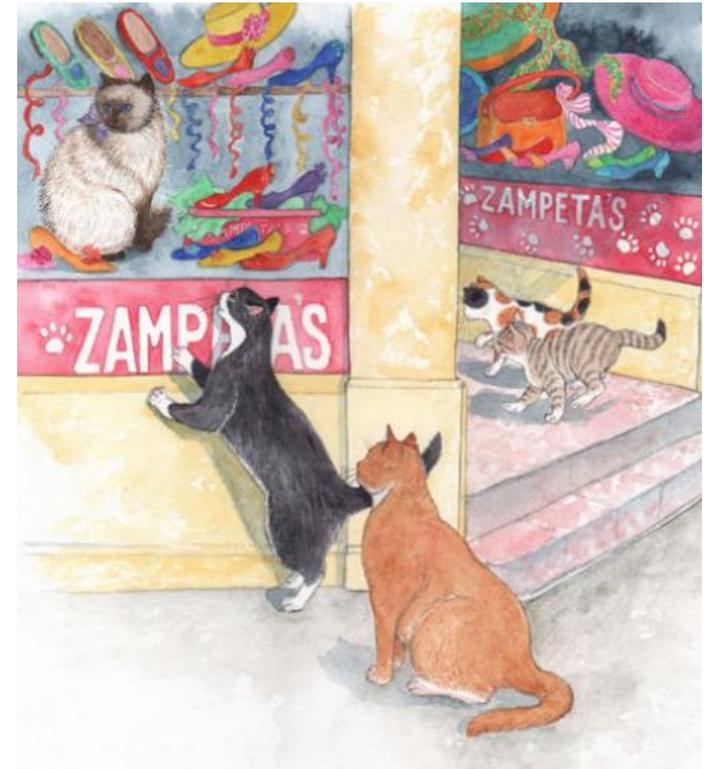
The kittens followed him through the tangled alleyways, over big bridges. And that night, when the weary Piccolo curled up in his crate near the Canal Tolentini, those kittens curled up beside him - just as if they were at home!



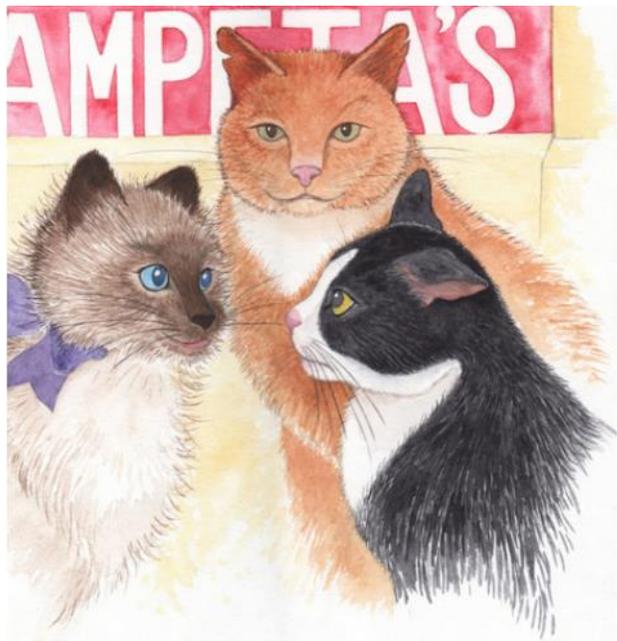
Piccolo opened one sleepy eye the next morning to see the puzzled face of old Caesar. “I had hoped you would accompany me to the fish market this lovely morning,” said Caesar to Piccolo, “but I see you have guests. Have you, perhaps, *adopted* these kittens?”

“I’m afraid they’ve adopted *me*,” replied Piccolo, “and something has to be done about it. It’s time for a talk with Sophia.”

Piccolo, in fact, had a plan.

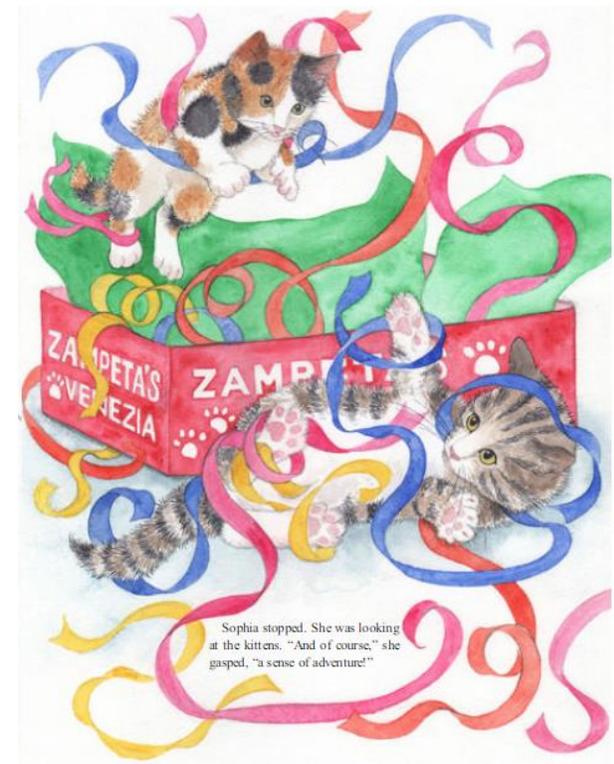


There are house cats and street cats and warehouse mouser cats. And there are shop cats, like Sophia. Caesar and Piccolo found Sophia as usual in the elegant window of Zampeta’s shoe store on the Grand Canal.



But when Piccolo presented his plan to Sophia, she just laughed. “Me? Take in two homeless kittens? Oh, Piccolo, caro mio, you must be kidding! My days as a mother are long past.

You can give the kittens a home, Piccolo, and why not? A papa can do what a mama can do. And you can be a papa, Piccolo. All it takes is love and care and time and patience and, of course...”



Sophia stopped. She was looking at the kittens. “And of course,” she gasped, “a sense of adventure!”

Sophia stopped. She was looking at the kittens. “And of course,” she gasped, “a sense of adventure!”

“Oh no!” groaned Piccolo, as the kittens were chased from the shop. “See what I mean!” cried Sophia, as they leaped into a water taxi.

“Your problem is solved!” declared Caesar, as the taxi sped away.



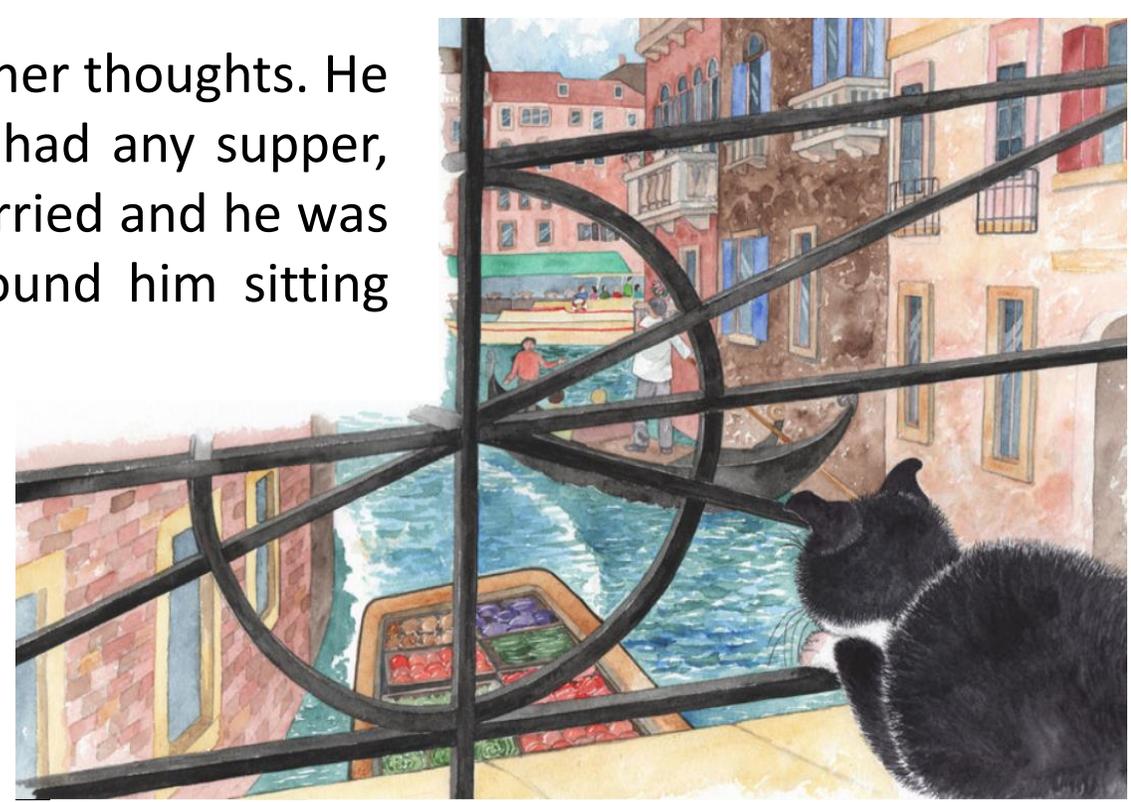
Piccolo’s first thought was, “Good riddance!”

But that night, wandering empty streets, Piccolo had other thoughts. He wondered where the kittens were, whether they had had any supper, whether they had a safe place to sleep. Piccolo was worried and he was lonely. When morning came, the brothers Barbaro found him sitting forlorn on the old stone bridge above their gondolas.

“Why so glum, Piccolo?” asked Luigi. Piccolo did not even look his way. He did not notice the laundry barges pass by carrying fresh linens to the big hotels. Or the garbage barges hauling away the city’s refuse. Or the police motor boats on patrol or the water taxis transporting eager tourists. The sun moved from east to west and morning became noon and noon became afternoon and still Piccolo did not move from his spot. Caesar and Sophia joined Piccolo on the bridge.

“My poor kittens,” sighed Piccolo.

“But Piccolo,” asked Caesar, “do you really want those kittens?”



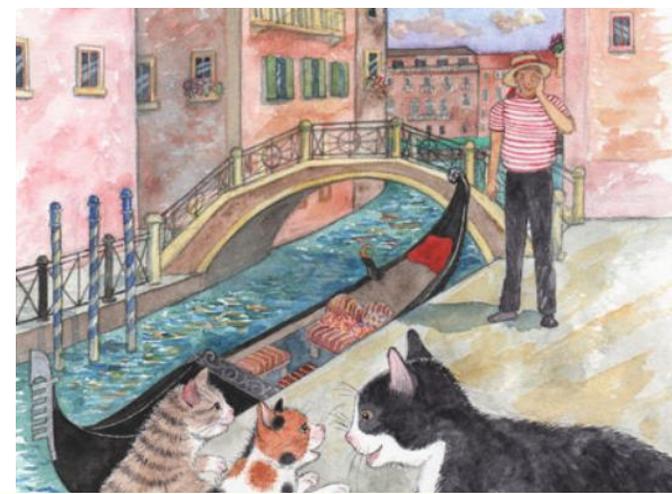
Taking care of kittens is a big job. Maybe it’s too big a job for you.”

“Nonsense!” protested Sophia. “Those kittens need someone to take care of them, and I think Piccolo could do that just as well as anybody else.”

“I think I could, too,” said Piccolo, “but I don’t know if I’ll ever see them again.”



With that sad though, the cats fell silent. The sun began to sink on another Venetian day. The gondoliers returned for their supper, first one, then another. Then young Luigi Barbaro came around the bend with two passengers still on board – one spotted and one striped. “Look what I’ve found!” call the laughing gondolier. “Is anyone looking for these world travellers?”



“The scalawags are back!” cried Piccolo as the kittens tumbled onto dry land. “Where have you kittens been? To China like Marco Polo?”

“I think these wanderers just got their names,” laughed Sophia.

“Welcome back, Marco!” said Caesar.

“Welcome home, Polo!” said Piccolo.

And the three happy cats looked very much like a family.

“The first thing I’m going to teach you two is how to find your way home!” said Piccolo. But that’s not all he taught the kittens.

He taught them ...

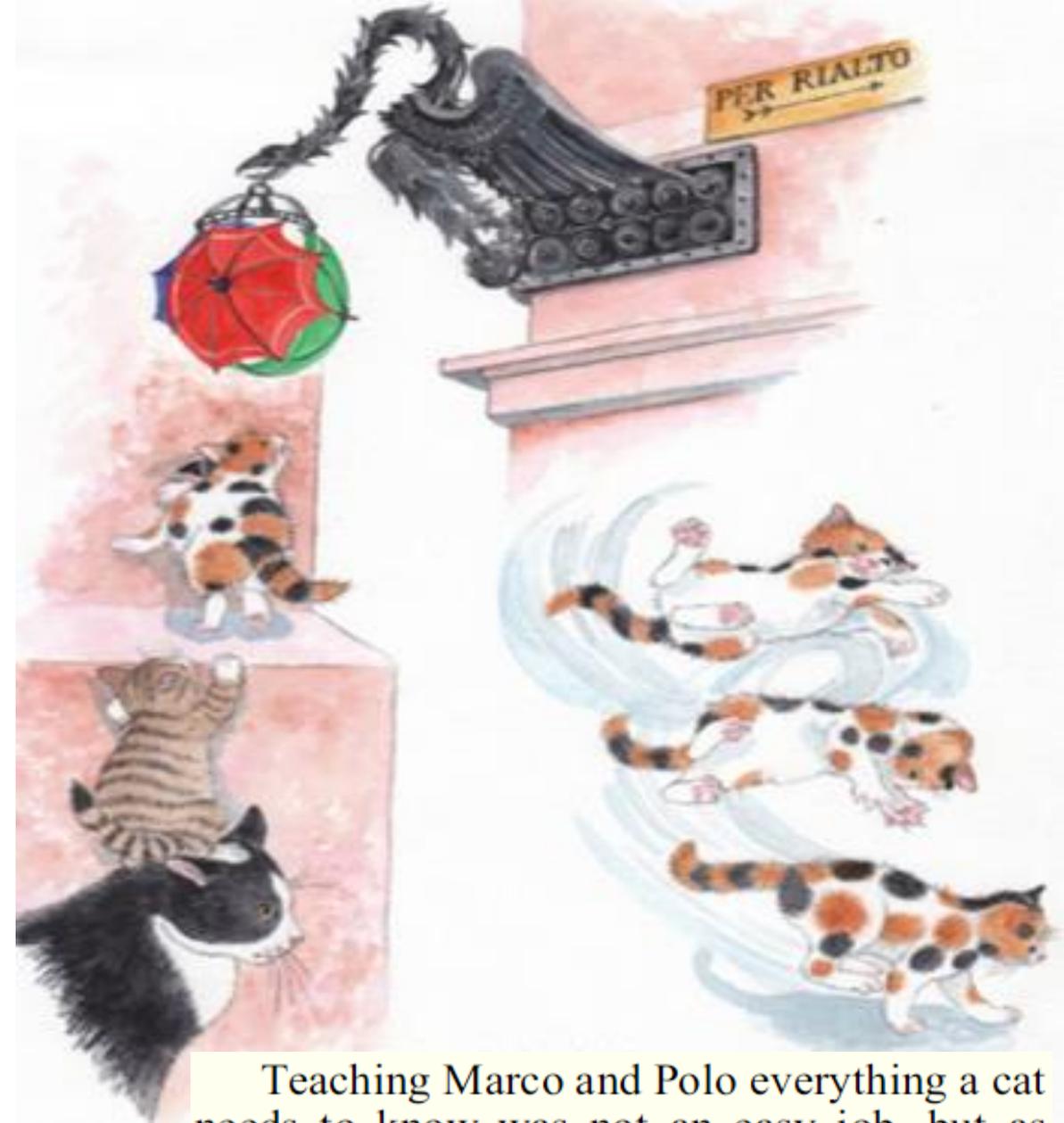
...how to find sardines...

...how to get a cool drink of water...

...how to eat spaghetti...

...and how to wash afterwards...

Piccolo taught the kittens how to climb to high places...

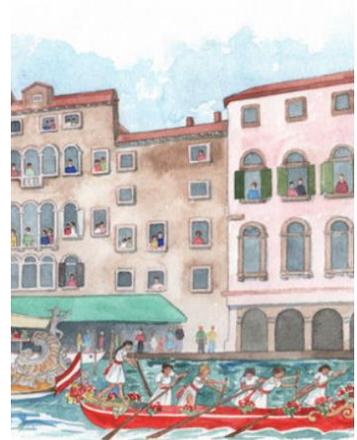


Teaching Marco and Polo everything a cat needs to know was not an easy job, but as Piccolo often said to his friends, "What an adventure!"



One fine September day, everyone in Venice assembled on the banks of the Grand Canal. It was the day of the regatta, when all the most beautiful boats and barges in Venice are decorated with flowers and flags and banners and gilded ornaments, and their crews of oarsmen get dressed up in dazzling costumes.

Caesar and Sophia were among the crowds cheering the splendid procession down the canal. They never missed a regatta. But today, they were watching for one particular gondola. When it swung into view, they cried out, “there it is!”



The young gondolier leaned into the oar, manoeuvring his craft skilfully through the crowded waters. It was Luigi Barbaro, of course. And perched proudly on an embroidered pillow in the very front were three cats.

As the gondola drew nearer, a little girl at the water’s edge cried out, “Look! Look at the mama cat and her kittens!”

Sophia and Caesar looked at each other and smiled. “That’s no mama cat!” laughed Caesar.



“That’s Papa Piccolo!”



Answer the questions

But there is nothing more playful than a kitten and nothing more persistent than one who has been fed. Wherever Piccolo went that day, the spotted kitten and the striped kitten were close behind



...peeking around a flower pot...

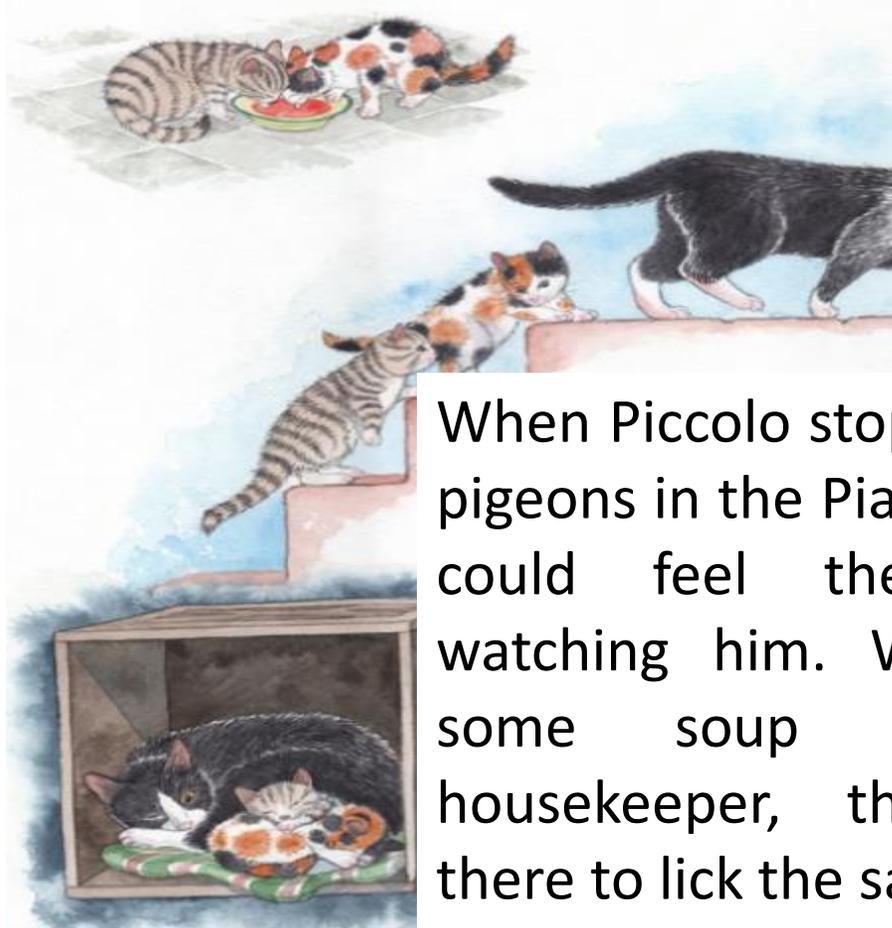


...a crate of melons...



...a stack of straw hats...

1. What three things did the kittens peep around?



When Piccolo stopped to watch the pigeons in the Piazza San Marco, he could feel the kittens' eyes watching him. When he begged some soup from a busy housekeeper, the kittens were there to lick the saucer clean.

The kittens followed Piccolo up steep steps, down tangled alleyways, over big bridges. And that night, when the weary Piccolo curled up in his crate near the Canal Tolentini, those kittens curled up beside him - just as if they were at home!

2. Where does Piccolo stop to watch the pigeons?

3. Why does you think Piccolo feels weary at the end of the day?



4. What type of cats are there?

5. What type of cat is Sophia?

There are house cats and street cats and warehouse mouser cats. And there are shop cats, like Sophia. Caesar and Piccolo found Sophia as usual in the elegant window of Zampeta's shoe store on the Grand Canal.



But when Piccolo presented his plan to Sophia she just laughed. “Me? Take in two homeless kittens? Oh, Piccolo, caro mio, you must be kidding! My days as a mother are long past.

You can give the kittens a home, Piccolo, and why not? A papa can do what a mama can do. And you can be a papa, Piccolo. All it takes is love and care and time and patience and, of course...”

Sophia stopped. She was looking at the kittens. “And of course,” she gasped, “a sense of adventure!”

6. What does Sophia say the kittens need?

“Oh no!” groaned Piccolo, as the kittens were chased from the shop. “See what I mean!” cried Sophia, as they leaped into a water taxi.

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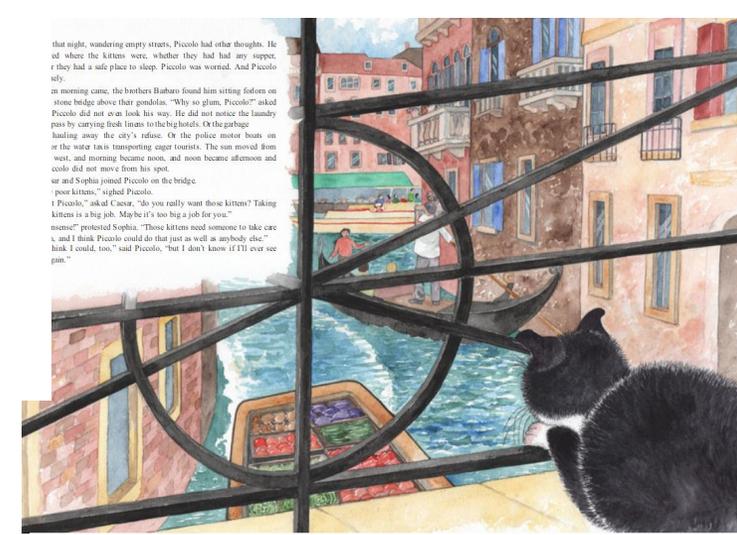


Piccolo's first thought was, "Good riddance!"

7. Why does Piccolo think 'good riddance'?

But that night, wandering empty streets, Piccolo had other thoughts. He wondered where the kittens were, whether they had had any supper, whether they had a safe place to sleep. Piccolo was worried and he was lonely. When morning came, the brothers Barbaro found him sitting forlorn on the old stone bridge above their gondolas.

8. Find two words to describe how Piccolo feels later



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9. Who found the kittens?

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“The first thing I’m going to teach you two is how to find your way home!” said Piccolo. But that’s not all he taught the kittens.

10. What do you think the word scalawags means?

11. What names does Piccolo give the kittens?

He taught them ...

...how to find sardines...

...how to get a cool drink of water...

...how to eat spaghetti...

...and how to wash up afterwards...

Piccolo taught the kittens how to climb to high places...

12. Write 3 things Piccolo teaches the kittens.

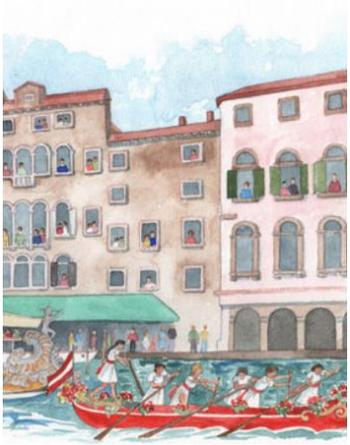




One fine September day, everyone in Venice assembled on the banks of the Grand Canal. It was the day of the regatta, when all the most beautiful boats and barges in Venice are decorated with flowers and flags and banners and gilded ornaments, and their crews of oarsmen get dressed up in dazzling costumes.

Caesar and Sophia were among the crowds cheering the splendid procession down the canal. They never missed a regatta. But today, they were watching for one particular gondola. When it swung into view, they cried out, “there it is!”

13. Describe what you will see during the regatta.



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Sophia and Caesar looked at each other and smiled. "That's no mama cat!" laughed Caesar.



"That's Papa Piccolo!"

14. At the end of the story do you think Piccolo is happy to be a papa? Explain your answer.

Answers

1. What three things did the kittens peek around?

...a flower pot...

...a crate of melons...

...a stack of straw hats...

2. Where does Piccolo stop to watch the pigeons?

Piazza San Marco

3. Why does you think Piccolo feels weary at the end of the day?

Possible answers one could be because he has been getting to get away from the kittens all day

4. What type of cats are there?

House cats, street cats warehouse mouser cats and shop cats

5. What type of cat is Sophia?

A shop cat

6. What does Sophia say the kittens need?

Love, care, time patience and a sense of adventure

7. Why does Piccolo think 'good riddance'?

Children's own ideas based on the text

8. Find two words to describe how Piccolo feels later.

Worried and lonely

9. Who finds the kittens?

Luigi Barbaro

10. What do you think the word scalawags means?

Someone who behaves badly but in an amusingly mischievous rather than harmful way; a rascal.

11. What names does Piccolo give the kittens?

Marco and Polo

12. Write 3 things Piccolo teaches the kittens.

How to find sardines

How to get a cool drink of water

How to eat spaghetti

How to wash up afterwards

How to climb to high places

13. Describe what you will see during the regatta.

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