



A's for the lad who's got loads of **A**mbition
To try and improve his career and position.

B are the **B**ells of great London town
Where he makes his way to win renown.

C is the **C**at who becomes his friend
Through thick and thin, he's true to the end.

D is for **D**ick, he's our hero today,
Dick Whittington – cheer him on his way.

E's for the **E**nergy he's **E**xpended
When his long long walk to the capital's ended.

There he hopes to make his **F**ortune bold,
But he finds the streets aren't paved with **G**old.

H is his **H**eavy **H**earth that night,
But when the morn comes, fair and bright,

He's filled again with **I**nspiration
Which turns, alas! to great frustration –

J is the **J**ob he just can't find,
He'd love to be part of the daily grind!

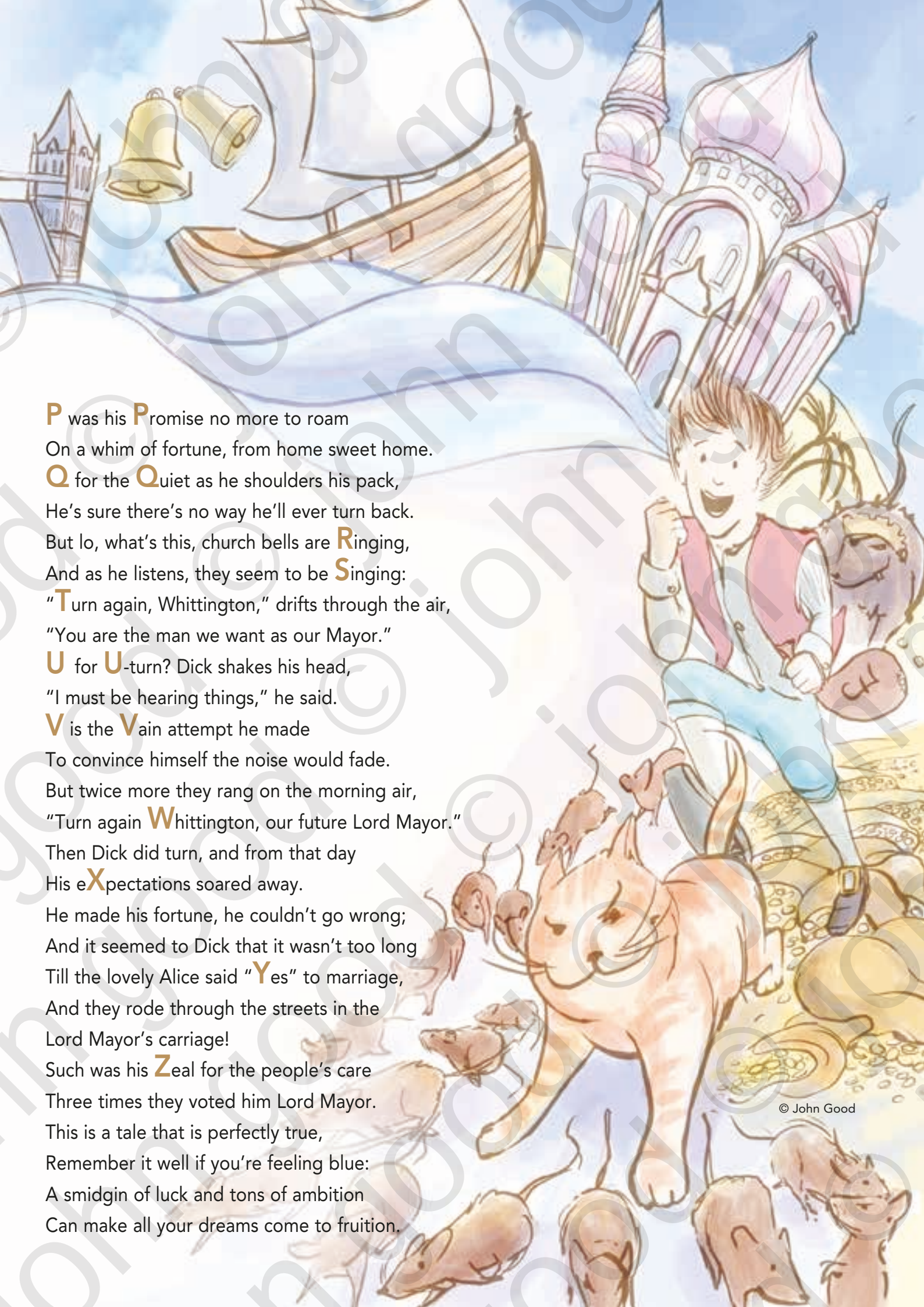
While Dick the London streets must tramp.
His cat becomes a ratting champ!

K is the **K**ipper he buys for his **K**itty,
But **L** is the **L**uck he can't find in the city.

Then **M**'s the **M**onday **M**orning blues,
And Dick gets out his walking shoes;

He vows his ties with London to sever,
The date for his return is – **N**ever.

O, the **O**bjections, his Cat begged 'Stay!'
But Dick had decided to leave that day.

A colorful illustration of a young boy with brown hair, wearing a red vest over a white shirt and blue trousers, running happily through a city. He is carrying a brown satchel. In the background, there is a large wooden sailing ship with white sails on the left, and a tall, ornate church with pink domes and spires on the right. The sky is blue with light clouds. In the foreground, a large orange cat is running towards the right, followed by a group of smaller brown mice.

P was his **P**romise no more to roam
On a whim of fortune, from home sweet home.

Q for the **Q**uiet as he shoulders his pack,
He's sure there's no way he'll ever turn back.

But lo, what's this, church bells are **R**inging,
And as he listens, they seem to be **S**inging:

"**T**urn again, Whittington," drifts through the air,
"You are the man we want as our Mayor."

U for **U**-turn? Dick shakes his head,
"I must be hearing things," he said.

V is the **V**ain attempt he made
To convince himself the noise would fade.

But twice more they rang on the morning air,

"Turn again **W**hittington, our future Lord Mayor."

Then Dick did turn, and from that day
His e**X**pectations soared away.

He made his fortune, he couldn't go wrong;
And it seemed to Dick that it wasn't too long

Till the lovely Alice said "**Y**es" to marriage,

And they rode through the streets in the
Lord Mayor's carriage!

Such was his **Z**eal for the people's care

Three times they voted him Lord Mayor.

This is a tale that is perfectly true,

Remember it well if you're feeling blue:

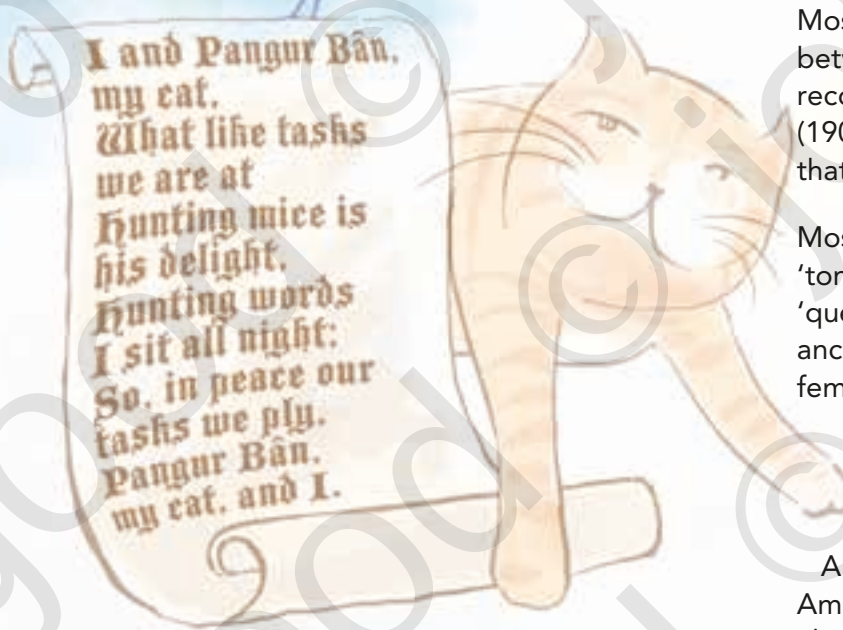
A smidgin of luck and tons of ambition

Can make all your dreams come to fruition.

THE CATS

WHISKERS


A miscellany of fantastic feline facts



I and Pangur Bán,
my cat,
What like tasks
we are at
Hunting mice is
his delight,
Hunting words
I sit all night:
So, in peace our
tasks we ply,
Pangur Bán,
my cat, and I.

These words were written over a thousand years ago by an Irish monk, about his beloved cat. It shows that the moggy sleeping on the rug by the fireplace is still a little suburban tiger, ready to up sticks and go hunting at the slightest opportunity. In the eight thousand years since the cat was first domesticated, the cat family has enchanted and fascinated mankind...

The cheetah is the world's fastest land mammal, with a top speed of 65 mph over almost half a mile. Its incredibly supple spine and long legs give it a tremendous stride and great thrusting power. If a cheetah had no legs at all, it is believed that it could still travel at 20 mph, just by humping along like a caterpillar!



Most house cats, if looked after, can expect to live between ten and fifteen years. However, the world record for longevity is held by a tabby called 'Puss' (1903-1939), who lived for an incredible 36 years – that's 125 in human terms!

Most people know the term for a male cat is a 'tom', but did you know a female cat is called a 'queen'? This is probably an adaptation of the ancient Anglo-Saxon word 'when' meaning the female sex.

The wild cat with the widest range is probably the puma. In recent times, it was found throughout the Americas, from southern Alaska all the way down to Patagonia in South America – a distance of three thousand miles. It also has the distinction of having the most local names of any cat – just a few of them are listed below:



IG-MU-TANK-A
PAINTER MITZLI
COUGAR
MISCHIPICHIN



Cats' eyes come in a variety of different colours, the most common being green. But did you know that if you have a white cat with blue eyes, it's likely to be deaf? If it's a white cat with odd eyes – one blue and one orange – it will be deaf in the ear that matches the side the blue eye is on!

The most common coat colour in Britain is the tabby, followed by the tabby-and-white, black-and-white, black, tortoiseshell-and-white, tortoiseshell, ginger and blue (plain grey to you and me).



Bouhaki – one of the first pictures known of a pet cat – as it appears on a wall in ancient Egypt (left). Archaeologists are still arguing about its name, however – some people believe it belonged to a dog!

Cats' senses are much more highly developed than ours: their night vision is one hundred times greater, they can smell thirty times better, and their hearing outstrips ours ten times over!

If you want a cat that is a bit different, how about a Devon Rex? With their huge ears, pixie-like faces and curly coats, to many people they resemble the mogwai from the film *Gremlins*. Add to this their dog-like personalities – they wag their tails when they're happy! – and it's easy to see why some people call them Poodle Cats.

Did you know that there are nearly a hundred recognised breeds of cat? Some are well-known, like the Siamese and the Persian – others less so, like the laid-back Ragdoll, the hairless Sphynx and the short-legged Munchkin. Nevertheless, they are

all outnumbered a-thousand-to-one by Britain's favourite pet – the humble moggy!

There are estimated to be seven-and-a-half million cats in Britain – compared with just under seven million dogs!

Did you know that cats sleep, on average, about 16 hours a day? That's about twice as much as we do. Because felines are such efficient predators, they have a lot of time on their hands (or paws!), and sleeping allows them to digest their meal, and to dream – about food, of course!

Finally, if you really can't stand cats (then why are you reading this?!), you stand in the same company as Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, Pope Gregory IX, Napoleon, William Shakespeare and Adolf Hitler.

But if you're an *ailurophile* (cat-lover), you can count Emily Brontë, Mark Twain, Edward Lear, Queen Victoria, Winston Churchill and Fred Astaire amongst your friends!

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From Rags to Riches

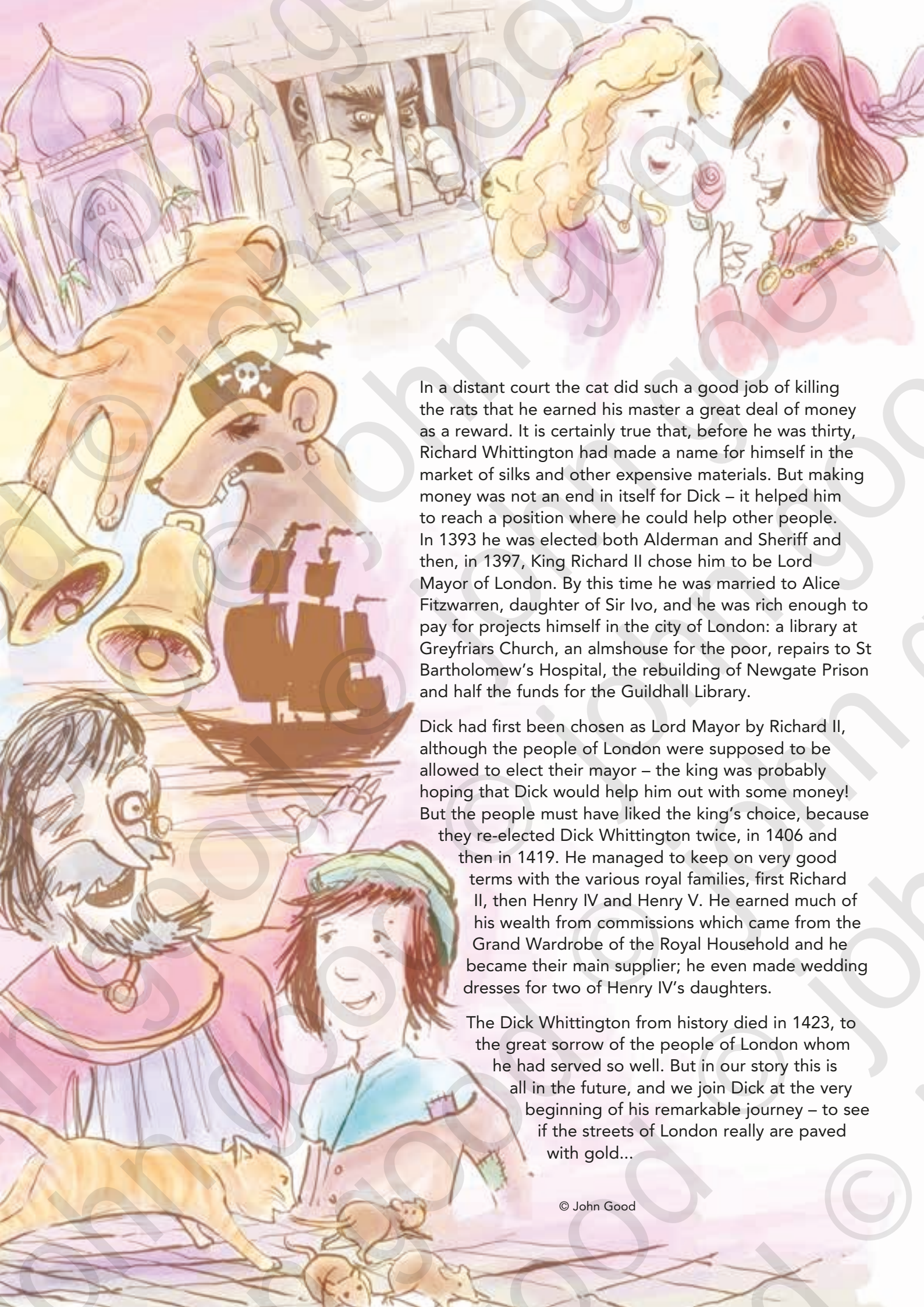
Many of the pantomimes we have today are based on books or fairy tales from hundreds of years ago, which were originally told to children, who then went on to tell their own children the same stories. Eventually these stories, such as *Cinderella*, *Aladdin* and *Jack and the Beanstalk* were written down, so that we can still read them today.

The story of *Dick Whittington*, however, is rather different, because Richard Whittington was a real person! He was born around 1350 (over 650 years ago!) and he was the third son of Sir William Whittington of Pauntley, which was a small village in Gloucestershire.

It sounds as if his family was very grand, doesn't it? But unfortunately, his father Sir William fell foul of the law before he died and it was only with great difficulty that Richard's elder brother managed to inherit anything at all. As the third son, Richard couldn't hope to get anything and he had to earn his keep by doing odd jobs around the village. But he heard people talking about London, the faraway capital city, and he took note of the rumours that there the streets were paved with gold, so he decided to go and see for himself.

When he reached London after a long journey, he found of course that the streets were not really paved with gold but, as luck would have it, he was taken on as an apprentice by a distant relative on his mother's side of the family, Sir Ivo Fitzwarren. Sir Ivo was a textile baron and a merchant adventurer, one of the few clothing merchants who were allowed to trade overseas at that time. At first Dick despaired of ever making his fortune and was on his way out of London when he was drawn back by the sound of Bow Bells, which seemed to tell him that he would one day be Lord Mayor of London. The story goes that Dick bought a cat to keep down the rats in the tiny attic room where he slept as an apprentice and, when Sir Ivo offered him the chance to send something overseas to sell in one of his ships, Dick's only possession was his cat.





In a distant court the cat did such a good job of killing the rats that he earned his master a great deal of money as a reward. It is certainly true that, before he was thirty, Richard Whittington had made a name for himself in the market of silks and other expensive materials. But making money was not an end in itself for Dick – it helped him to reach a position where he could help other people. In 1393 he was elected both Alderman and Sheriff and then, in 1397, King Richard II chose him to be Lord Mayor of London. By this time he was married to Alice Fitzwarren, daughter of Sir Ivo, and he was rich enough to pay for projects himself in the city of London: a library at Greyfriars Church, an almshouse for the poor, repairs to St Bartholomew's Hospital, the rebuilding of Newgate Prison and half the funds for the Guildhall Library.

Dick had first been chosen as Lord Mayor by Richard II, although the people of London were supposed to be allowed to elect their mayor – the king was probably hoping that Dick would help him out with some money! But the people must have liked the king's choice, because they re-elected Dick Whittington twice, in 1406 and then in 1419. He managed to keep on very good terms with the various royal families, first Richard II, then Henry IV and Henry V. He earned much of his wealth from commissions which came from the Grand Wardrobe of the Royal Household and he became their main supplier; he even made wedding dresses for two of Henry IV's daughters.

The Dick Whittington from history died in 1423, to the great sorrow of the people of London whom he had served so well. But in our story this is all in the future, and we join Dick at the very beginning of his remarkable journey – to see if the streets of London really are paved with gold...

Rhyming Chimes!

You all know the famous song 'Oranges and Lemons' –

to solve this puzzle, first unscramble the church names, then match them with the line they say in the song, then link them with the pictures that are dotted around and write the proper number in each of the boxes.

1 Oranges and Lemons

YET PENS

OILY BLADE

2 You owe me five farthings



WOB

3 When will you pay me?



4 When I am rich

MELTS CENTS

MINS TARTS

5 When will that be?



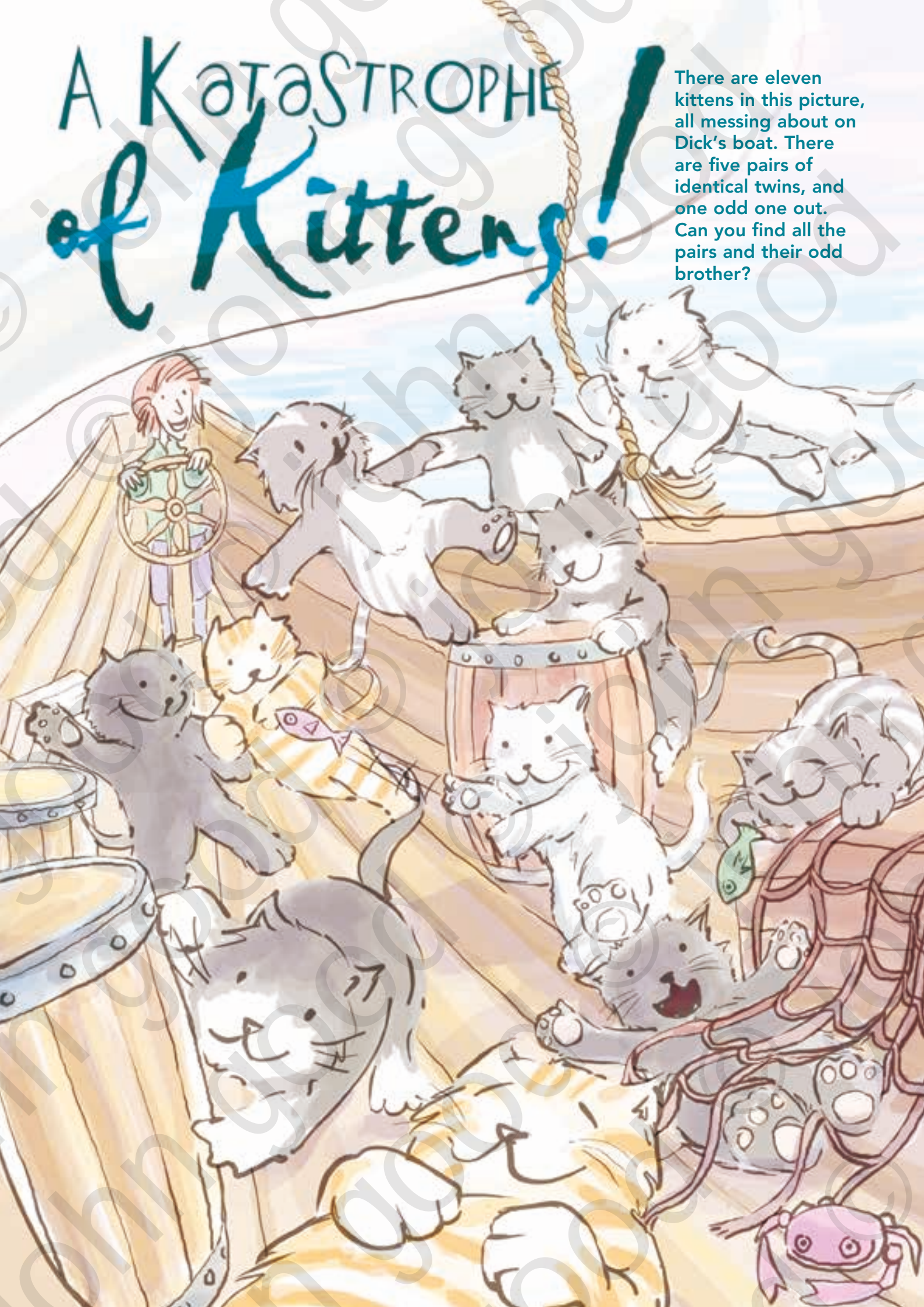
6 I do not know



THIS E CHORD

A KATASTROPHE of Kittens!

There are eleven kittens in this picture, all messing about on Dick's boat. There are five pairs of identical twins, and one odd one out. Can you find all the pairs and their odd brother?



DOT To DOT

Who has stopped our friends in Old London town?
Join the dots to find out!



A BARRELFUL OF WORDS

R O O P X H P I
 U L H G V Y S R C X C
 O N H O I H X Z B U Q I N
 D G X L B O W B E L L S A T V A
 A I T D R O Y B A M D R O L S V
 M R C R E W B G G R N R A E L
 E I Y K O E T Z N Y W U V I O
 W C C N W U P B I R A T S L G
 K H S E V H G R L F I K V O H
 I S L I J Q I H I R E D C N T
 E A Q Z T E X T O Y O E E D I
 U L H G V Y S R E I U K I N D
 F O R D Y L K A H B E L R N D R F E
 N G H N I H O J G H C A T O A
 Z K I N G R A T X M A Q C K N

See if you can find all the words from the list below on this barrel! They may go backwards, forwards, up, down or diagonally. Each letter may be used several times (in different words).

ALICE
 CREW
 MICE
 DAME
 OH YES IT IS
 THRICE

DICK WHITTINGTON
 PAVED WITH GOLD
 TOILING
 KING RAT
 POOR
 TROUGH

BOW BELLS
 EARN
 FORTUNE
 VOYAGE
 CAT
 RICH

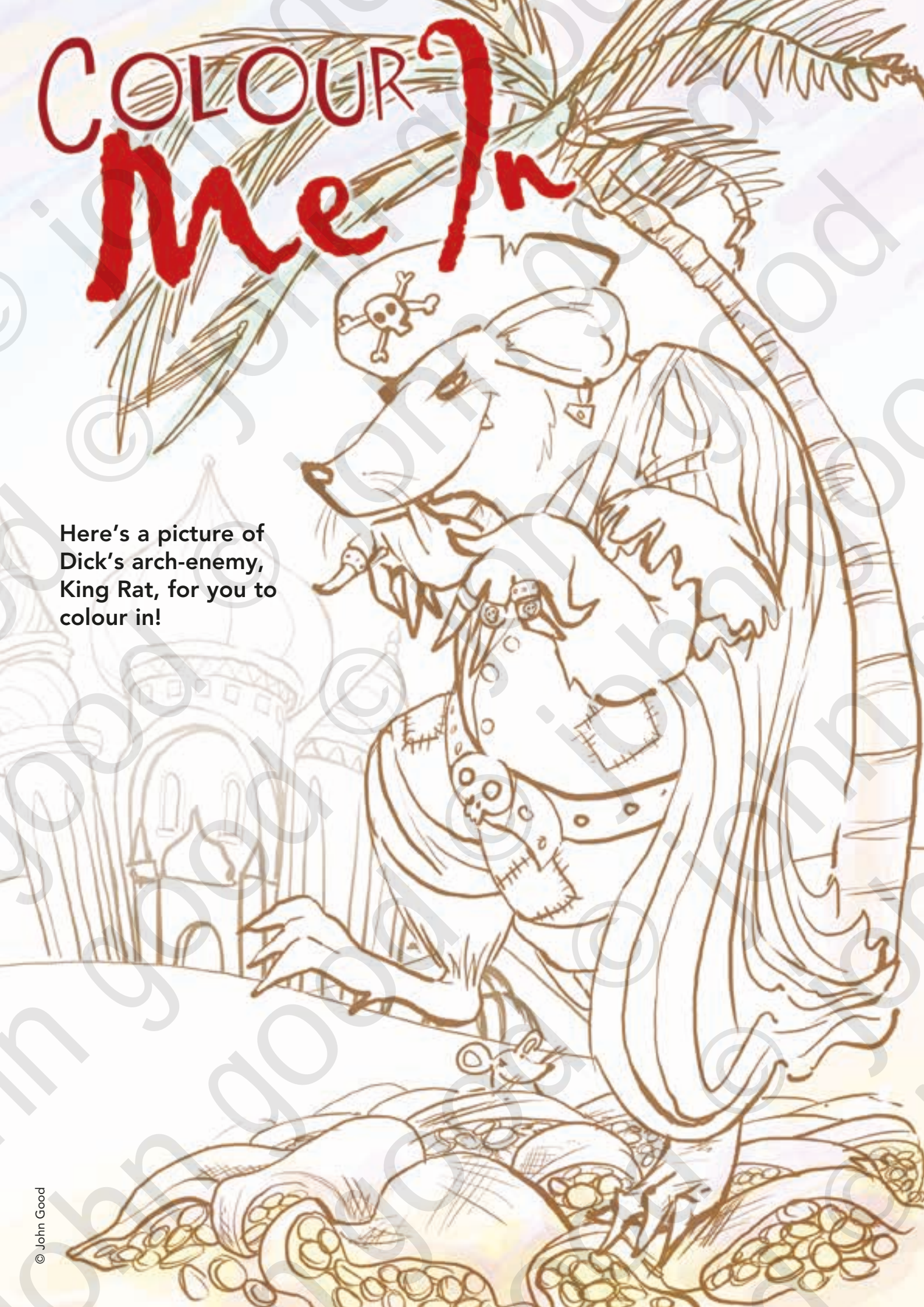
LONDON
 SAILED
 LORD MAYOR
 COOK
 RATS
 GOLD

Colour Me In



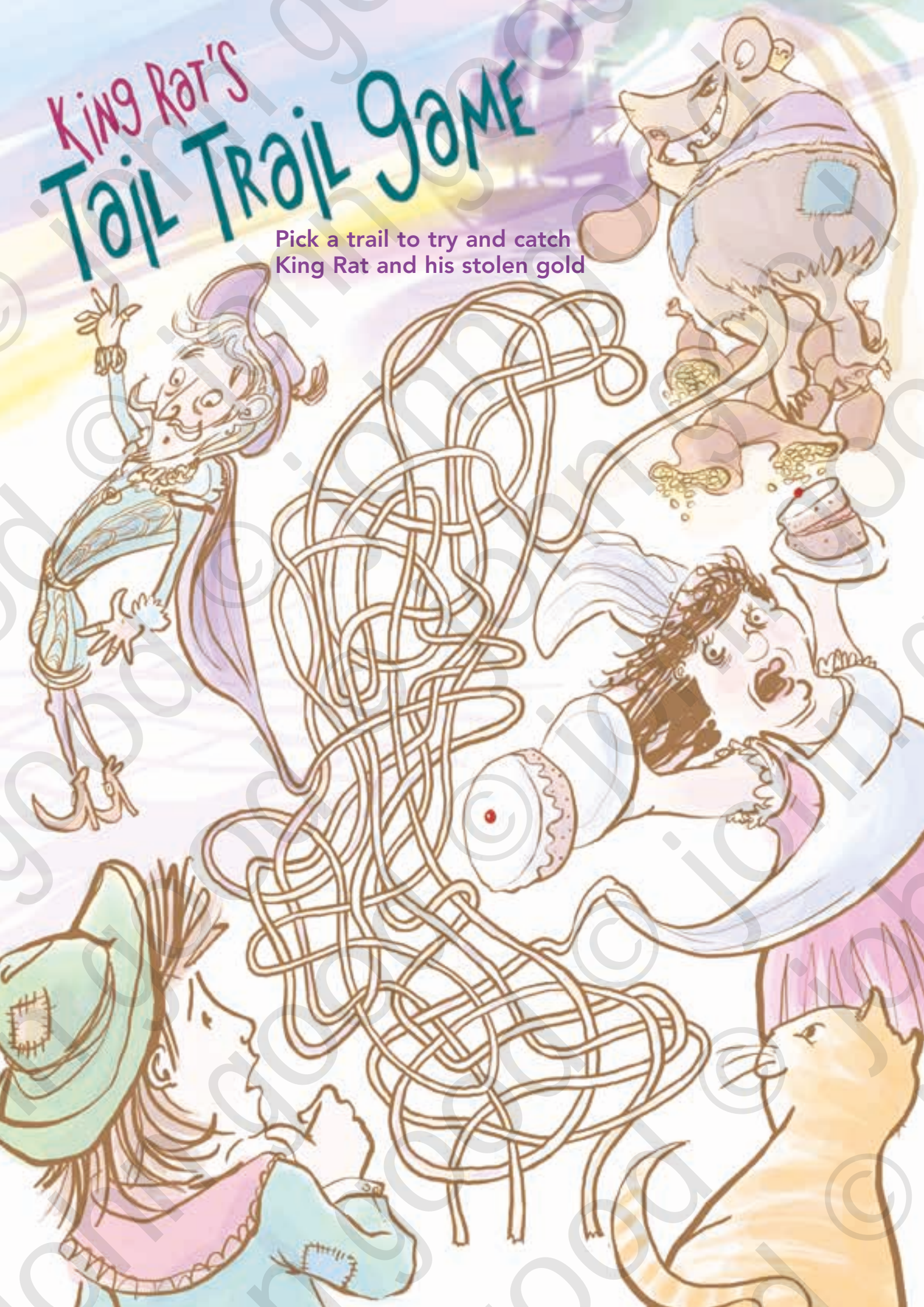
COLOUR me in

Here's a picture of Dick's arch-enemy, King Rat, for you to colour in!



King Rat's Tail Trail Game

Pick a trail to try and catch
King Rat and his stolen gold

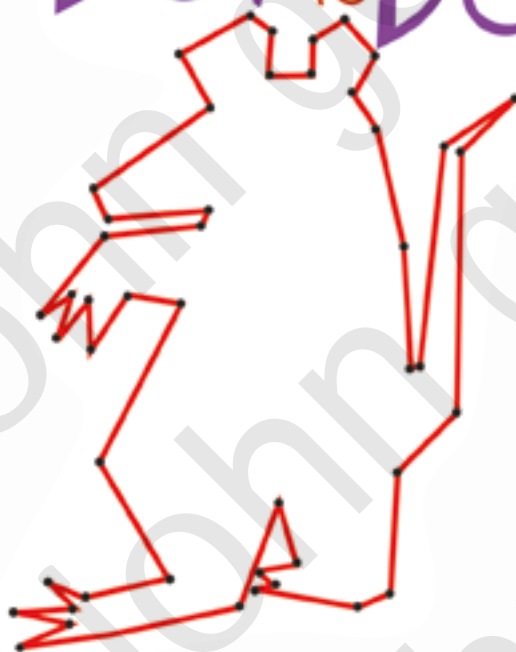


ANSWERS

King Rat's
Tail Trail
Game



DOT TO DOT



A BARRELFUL
OF WORDS

R	O	O	P	X	H	P	I	T	K	C	X	C	O	L		
U	L	H	G	V	Y	S	R	E	I	U	Q	I	N	D		
O	N	H	O	I	H	X	S	R	E	I	U	Q	I	N	D	
D	G	X	L	B	O	W	B	E	L	L	S	D	S	V		
A	I	T	D	R	O	Y	A	M	D	R	O	L	X	D		
M	R	C	R	E	W	B	G	G	R	N	R	A	E	L		
E	I	Y	K	O	E	T	Z	N	Y	W	U	V	I	O		
W	C	C	N	W	U	P	B	R	A	T	S	L	O	G		
K	H	S	E	V	H	G	R	L	F	I	K	V	O	H		
I	S	L	I	J	Q	I	H	R	E	D	C	N	T	I		
E	A	Q	Z	T	E	X	T	O	Y	O	E	E	D	I		
N	U	L	E	N	K	I	P	I	T	K	C	X	C	O		
R	O	F	L	H	G	V	Y	S	R	E	I	U	Q	I	N	D
T	E	L	K	A	H	B	E	L	R	N	D	R	F	E	V	
O	G	H	N	I	H	O	J	G	H	C	A	T	O	V		
F	L	H	B	V	Y	Z	V	T	F	O	X	V	O	P		
Z	K	I	N	G	R	A	T	X	M	A	Q	C	K	N		

A KATASTROPHE
of Kittens!

