

READY★TO★READ

LEVEL TWO



HENRY AND MUDGE

and the Happy Cat



by Cynthia Rylant illustrated by Suçie Stevenson

Winners of the Theodor Seuss Geisel Award

Ready to read?

THEN REACH FOR THE STARS!

Each child is a rising star in our Ready-to-Read program, gaining confidence as they launch from one reading level to the next. With a constellation of engaging, soon-to-be favorite stories and starring characters to lead the way, we encourage beginning readers to enjoy the journey of learning to read.

The Ready-to-Read stories are grouped into four reading levels:

PRE-LEVEL ONE ★ RISING STAR READER!

Stories are shared reading experiences, featuring familiar characters and simple words.

LEVEL ONE ★ STAR READER!

Stories feature easy sight words and words to sound out, simple plot and dialogue, as well as familiar topics and themes.

LEVEL TWO ★ SUPERSTAR READER!

Stories have simple chapters, longer sentences, and high-interest vocabulary words.

LEVEL THREE ★ MEGASTAR READER!

Stories have longer, more complex plots and character development, challenging vocabulary words, and more difficult sentence structure.

Confidence is a big key to learning to read, and whether a child is a Rising Star or a Megastar, this program is designed to help kids feel like stars at **every** reading level. With the help of their favorite characters, every reading star will sparkle and shine as they take pride in their abilities and learn to love reading.

Blast off on this starry adventure . . . a universe of reading awaits!

Henry and Mudge

AND THE

Happy Cat

The Eighth Book of Their Adventures



Story by Cynthia Rylant

Pictures by Suçie Stevenson

Ready-to-Read



Simon Spotlight
New York London Toronto Sydney

To the Peacocks: Nancy, Larry, Aaron and Natalie—CR For Chuck, Kathy and Jack—SS

THE HENRY AND MUDGE BOOKS

First Aladdin Paperbacks Edition, 1994

Text copyright © 1990 by Cynthia Rylant

Illustrations copyright © 1990 by Suçie Stevenson

Simon Spotlight

An imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division

1230 Avenue of the Americas

New York, NY 10020

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Also available in a Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers Edition.

The text of this book was set in 18 point Goudy

The illustrations were rendered in pen-and-ink and watercolor

Printed and bound in the United States of America

40 39 38 37 36 35

The Library of Congress has catalogued the hardcover edition as follows:

Rylant, Cynthia.

Henry and Mudge and the happy cat: The eighth book of their adventures / story by Cynthia Rylant; pictures by Suçie Stevenson.

p. cm.

Summary: Henry's family takes in a stray cat, the ugliest cat they have ever seen, and an amazing relationship blossoms between it and their big dog Mudge.

[1.Cats—Fiction. 2. Dogs—fiction.] I. Stevenson, Suçie, ill.

II. Title.

[PZ7.R982Hi 1994]

[E]-dc20 93-10797

ISBN-13: 978-0-689-81012-1 (hc.)

ISBN-10: 0-689-81012-1 (hc.)

ISBN-13: 978-0-689-81013-8 (pbk)

ISBN-10: 0-689-81013-X (pbk)

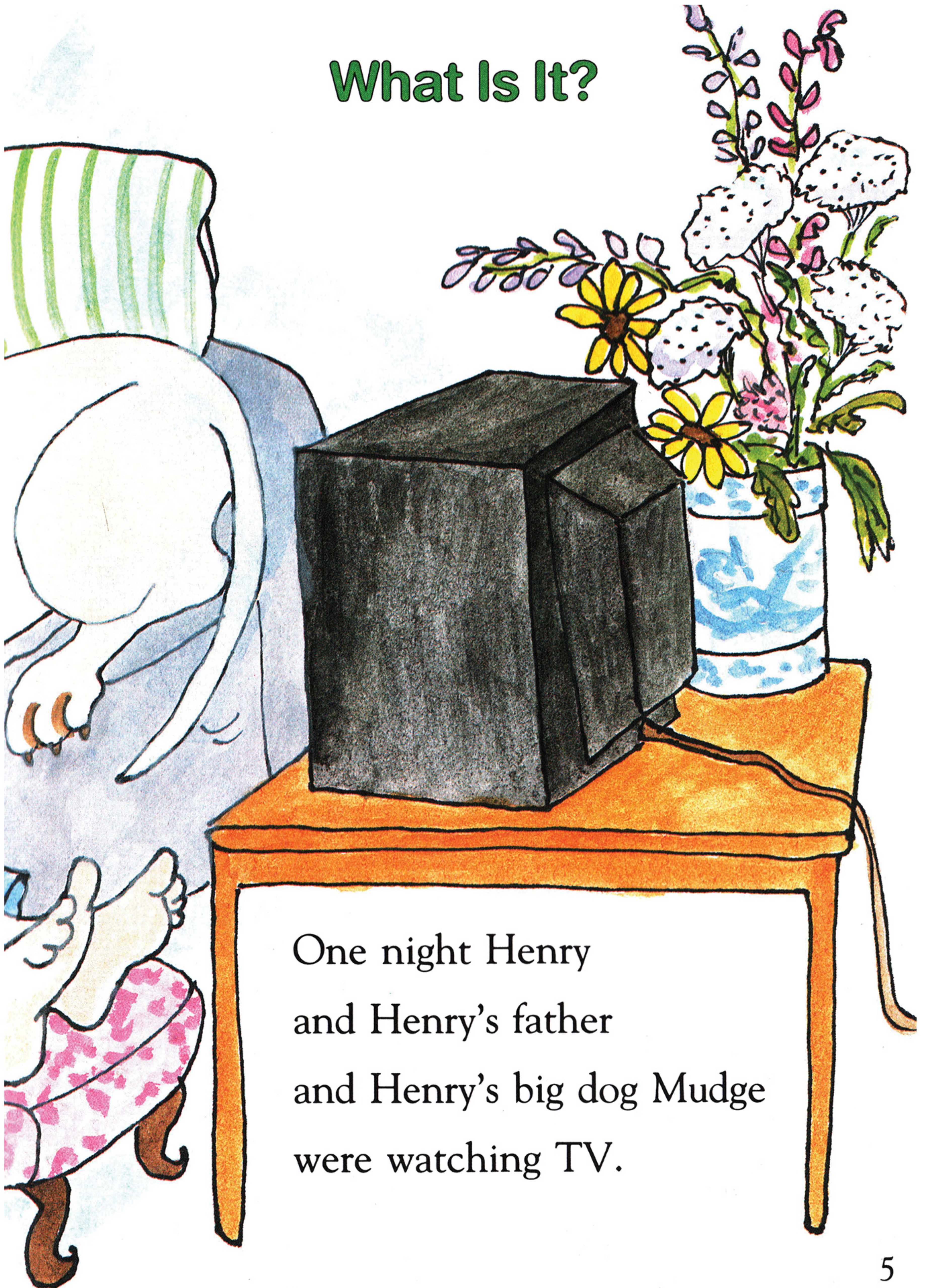
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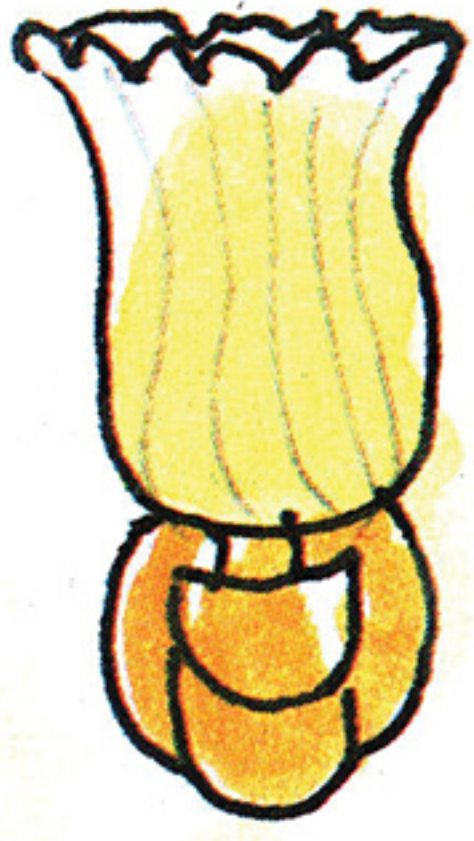
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What Is It?



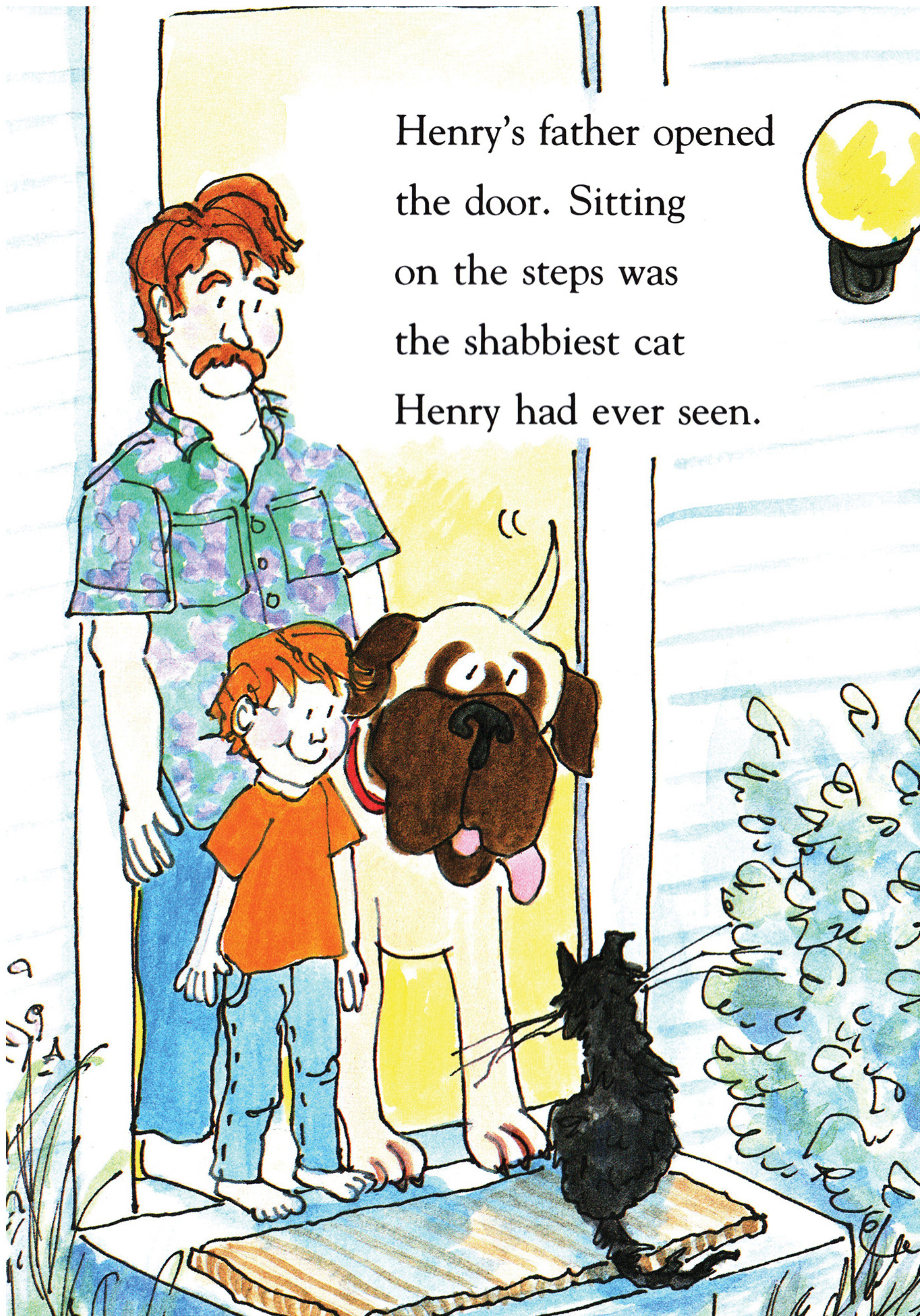
One night Henry
and Henry's father
and Henry's big dog Mudge
were watching TV.



Suddenly Mudge ran
to the door
and barked.



Henry's father opened
the door. Sitting
on the steps was
the shabbiest cat
Henry had ever seen.



It had a saggy belly,
skinny legs,
and fur that looked like
mashed prunes.

Henry and Henry's father
and Henry's big dog Mudge
stood in the door
and looked at the shabby cat.

"Hey kitty," said Henry.

"Are you sure it's a kitty?"
said Henry's father.



“It might be a stray,”

Henry said, petting it.

“It has to be,” said Henry’s father.

“That is the shabbiest cat

I have ever seen.”





He carried the cat
into the house while
Henry and Mudge followed.
Mudge's tail was wagging hard.

“Can it stay?” Henry asked.

“Only until we find a home
for it,” said his father.

He looked hard at the cat.



“Do you think it *knows*
it’s that shabby?” Henry’s father asked.



Mudge was licking some milk
from the visitor's chin.

"Mudge doesn't know,"
Henry said.

"Mudge likes it."

"Yes," said Henry's father,
"but Mudge also likes turkey gizzards."

READING ★ WITH ★ THE ★ STARS!

Simon Spotlight Ready-to-Read books showcase your favorite characters—the stars of these stories!

At every level, you are a reading star!

PRE-LEVEL ONE ★ RISING STAR READER!
Shared reading ★ Familiar characters ★ Simple words

LEVEL ONE ★ STAR READER!
Easy sight words and words to sound out ★ Simple plot and dialogue
Familiar topics and themes

LEVEL TWO ★ SUPERSTAR READER!
Longer sentences ★ Simple chapters ★ High-interest vocabulary words

LEVEL THREE ★ MEGASTAR READER!
Longer, more complex story plot and character development
Challenging vocabulary words ★ More difficult sentence structure



One day a very shabby cat shows up at Henry's door. Henry and his dog, Mudge, bring the cat inside and give him milk. Before long, they have made a wonderful new friend. The cat teaches Mudge manners and acts like she is his mother. But where did this scruffy, lovable cat come from?

by Cynthia Rylant illustrated by Stevenson

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Henry & Mudge: The Happy Cat

1 \$3.25

ISBN 978-0-689-81013-8 \$3.99 U.S./\$4.99 Can.



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A Ready-to-Read Book/Fiction
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Simon & Schuster, New York
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