

## SPIKE'S REVENGE

Spike stretched his legs and yawned. The sun was out and he was lying on the verandah without a care in the world. It was Senior Citizen's Cat Week. He had been fed chicken neck and special cat milk.

Spike was old now and had plenty of time to

think about his past. The mice he had caught! The bitter fights over territory! The dogs he had sent running!

From where the old tomcat sat he could see his favourite fences. He looked fondly at the back lane that provided the fattest mice. Across the

street was where he had chased the Alsatian halfway to the main road.

- 2 Casually, like a king surveying his lands, he looked next door where a huge prowling tomcat was ...

Wait on, thought Spike. That's not right! He glared at the cat next door. He was young and built like a tank.

When Spike was younger, he would have been over the fence in a flash and sorted that tomcat out. Now though, he would have to plan his attack. He closed his eyes and began to dream.

- 3 Spike followed the tom for the first few days. Sadly, the newcomer was a real fighter. All the other cats in the neighbourhood were beaten, one after the other. Spike began to worry. This wasn't going to be as easy as he had thought.

The next night Spike waited on the next-door neighbour's roof. Boss, his new enemy, came through the cat flap for a bit of fresh air. Spike let out the loudest yowl he could.

- 4 Boss's hair stood up like tiny missiles. He was quick to recover. Up the brickwork like a shadow he leapt. A great death-defying bound and Boss was on the roof, searching for Spike. But Spike was already on the windowsill below.

Spike watched the woman inside the bedroom. He scratched quietly on the window and waited patiently. The woman sat up in bed. Spike scratched a little more. The woman moved sleepily to the window.

- 5 Spike flattened his face against the window. "HISSSS!" he screamed, his eyes and mouth wide open.

"WUH!" the woman shrieked and stumbled backwards. Spike fled across the fence, a ghost in the night.

Boss arrived just as the window was flung open. Huge hands scooped Boss up and away. "It's only Boss," a man growled. "I don't know what's got into him." The window slammed shut.

- 6 The next night Spike crawled beneath the tiles and climbed to the highest rafter. He jumped off, making as much noise as he could. He screeched. He yowled. He hissed. He stamped. When Boss arrived, Spike was already running for home.

Week after week, Spike thought of new ideas to upset the neighbours. He desperately wanted them to move out. But they were still there after a month. Spike knew it would take something special. Then one day it came to him.

- 7 The laneway was always full of nice plump mice. Purrrrrfect! He hopped over the fence and began collecting them. One. Two. Three. Soon, Spike had dozens of mice, all scrabbling around each other in a rubbish bin. Two by two he began dumping them through the cat flap.

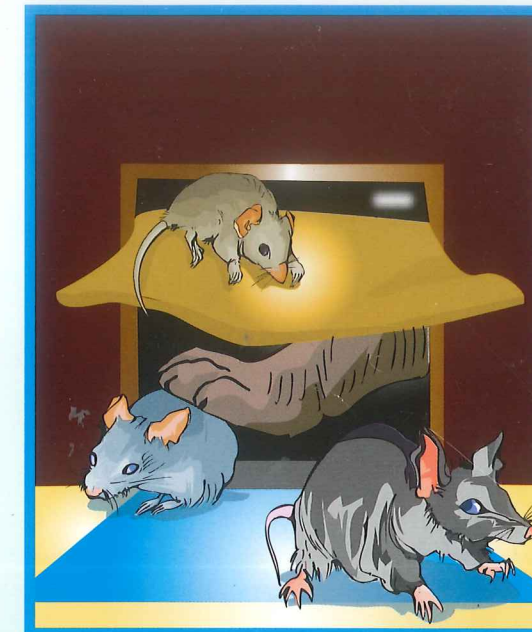
Boss was on to him of course. But he was too busy trying to catch all the mice that Spike was throwing through the cat flap to chase after Spike. Twenty-one, twenty-two ... More and

more mice were released into the old house.

- 8 The neighbours woke the next morning to a house overrun with mice. The little pests were everywhere, some had even found their way into their beds. Spike purred at the sound of their shrieks. "You good-for-nothing!" they screamed at Boss.

- 9 The neighbours moved out within the week. No way could they live in a house full of mice! Spike waved a lazy paw in farewell. Boss glared back from behind the bars of his cage.

Spike licked himself, stretched and yawned. He had a lot of sleep to catch up on. Unfortunately for Spike, he didn't see Terror, the Fox Terrier, move in across the street ...



## Questions

- 1 Spike was  
a a young cat.  
b an old cat.  
c a dog.
- 2 Which area provided the fattest mice?  
a the verandah  
b the street  
c the laneway
- 3 The new cat's name was  
a Boss.  
b Tom.  
c Terror.
- 4 Where did Spike screech, yowl, hiss and stamp?  
a in the rafters  
b in the laneway  
c on the windowsill
- 5 What made Spike purr at the end?  
a seeing Boss leave  
b hearing the neighbours scream  
c lying in the sun
- 6 Had Boss actually done anything to deserve Spike treating him as an enemy?  
a No.  
b Yes.

## Vocabulary

Match the words from the text to the clues.

The brackets show the text sections ( ).

glared fondly shrieked surveying dozens

- 7 Looking at something lovingly (1)
- 8 Looking at or reviewing (2)
- 9 Screeched (5)
- 10 Groups of 12 (7)
- 11 Looked at angrily (9)

## Alphabetical Order

The following words appear in the text.

When placed in alphabetical order, which one would be **first**?

- 12 sun, special, sadly, shrieked
- 13 woman, wide, week, waited
- 14 loudest, legs, lying, lane
- 15 fresh, flap, fed, fights

## Back To The Text...

- 16 Another good name for this text would be:
  - a Spike's Mice
  - b Spike's Territory
- 17 In which part of the library would you find this text?
  - a fiction
  - b non-fiction

18 Prediction: What is likely to happen in the future?

- a Spike will have to get ready for the next fight.
- b Spike will be able to spend the rest of his life relaxing.

## Sequencing

Look back through the card to find what happened first.

Choose **a** or **b**.

- 19 a Spike had a chicken neck dinner.  
b Spike planned his attack on Boss.
- 20 a Spike pushed the mice through the cat flap.  
b Boss pushed through the cat flap to get fresh air.
- 21 a Spike started to collect mice.  
b Spike scratched at the neighbour's window.

## Think About This

- 22 The image on page 3 is described in section
  - a five.
  - b six.
  - c seven.
  - d eight.
- 23 The purpose of this text is
  - a to inform.
  - b to describe.
  - c to tell a story.

## Challenge Option

Research: List the names of five different types of cat.

