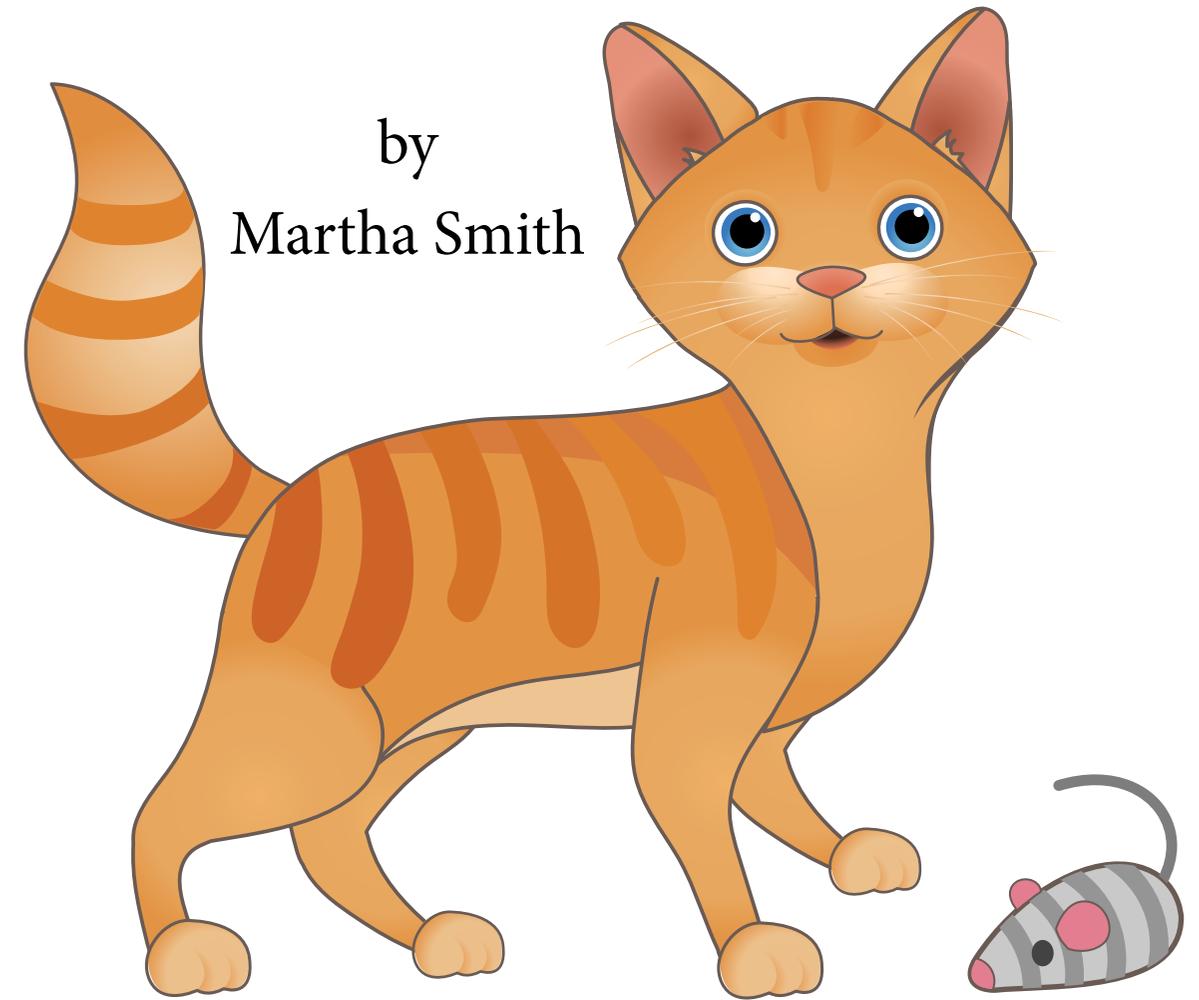




Murphy's Neighborhood Adventures

by
Martha Smith



Illustrated by Jennifer Tipton Cappoen

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Dedication

To my loving hubby, Danny,
for letting me read my story edits to you,
over and over and over again.

Murphy, the orange striped cat, was an extremely lucky cat. He knew it. He had been lucky two times already!

The first time when he felt lucky was when he was just a tiny kitten. He was adopted by a kind and friendly couple who lived on a quiet street in a small city.

At first he was an indoor cat and played all over the house. Murphy had comfy sofas and chairs to nap on, TVs to watch, and a huge bed to sleep on at night.





But Murphy became bored. The cat grew more and more curious about the world outdoors. He spent hours sitting and looking through the glass door.

One day, his mom watched him staring out the door. She wondered if Murphy wanted to go outdoors and explore.

When his mom held the door open for him, Murphy was surprised and a little scared of what was beyond. He decided to be brave and dashed out the door.





He was outside the house! No more boring days for Murphy. He had exciting new places to explore.

Murphy *loved* being outdoors! He prowled through the shrubs and grasses. He napped near the garden lined with round white stones.

He watched flittering butterflies, chased speedy lizards, and patted colorful flowers with his paws.

The cat especially liked lying under the shady, green shrubs. From there, he listened to the mishmash of sounds all around him in his neighborhood: chirping birds, croaking frogs, happy kids on bikes, noisy lawn mowers, and buzzing bees.

