

The Ozcats and the Lost Picnic

A picture book adventure with Jeffrey, Georgie Girl and Junior



**It was a beautiful sunny morning at the
Ozcats' house.**

Birds were singing.

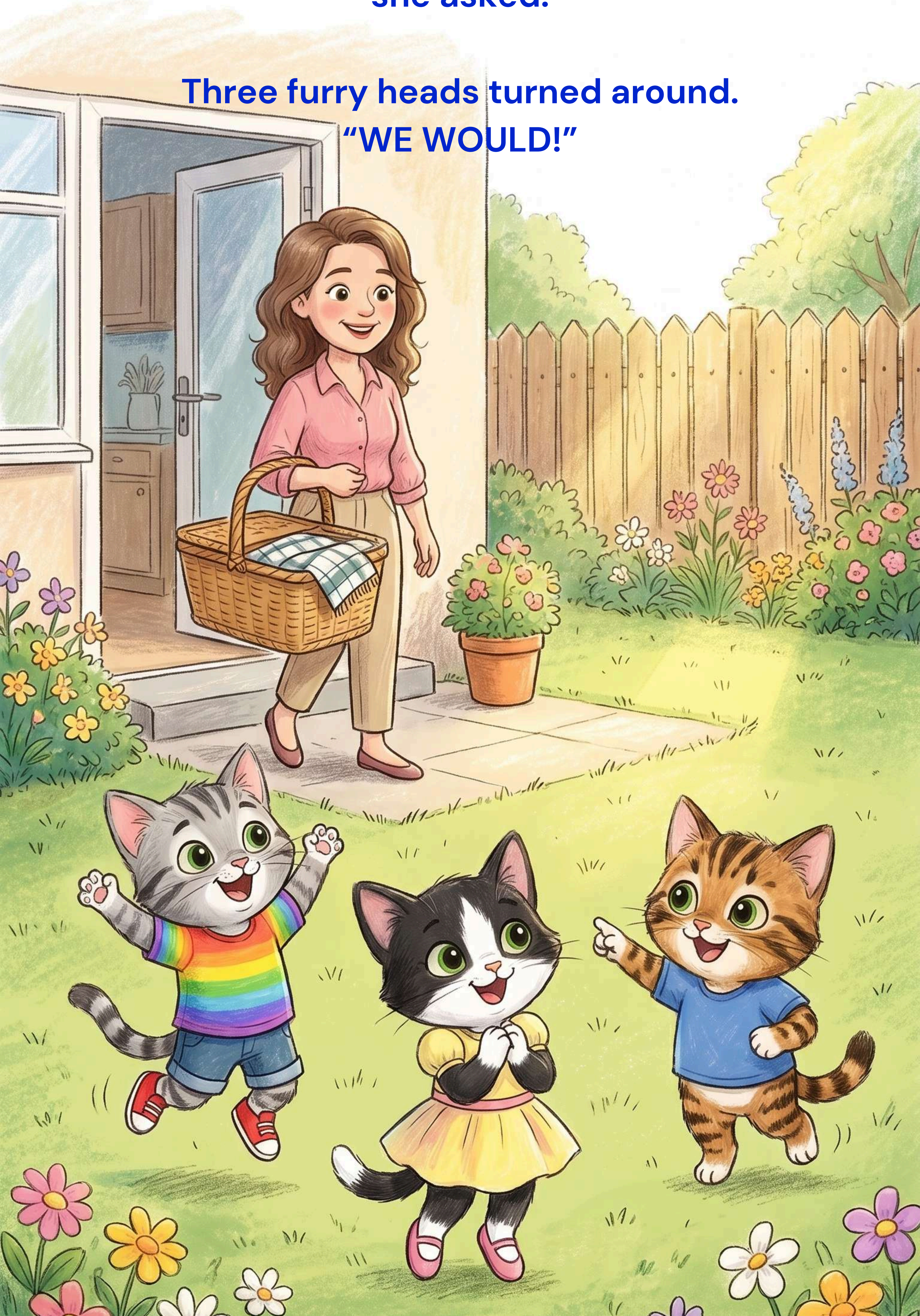
Butterflies were fluttering.

And Junior was thinking about lunch.



Mum stepped outside carrying a big picnic basket.
“Who would like to have a picnic in the garden?”
she asked.

Three furry heads turned around.
“WE WOULD!”



Mum packed sandwiches.

She packed fruit.

She packed little bottles of water.

And she packed three special treats.

Junior watched every single thing go into the basket.

Very carefully.



“Junior,” said Jeffrey, “you don’t need to guard the picnic.”

“I’m not guarding it,” said Junior.

“I’m keeping it safe.”

Georgie Girl smiled

“That sounds a lot like guarding.”



Dad carried a picnic blanket into the garden.

Jeffrey brought a ball.

Georgie Girl picked a shady spot beneath the tree.

Junior followed the picnic basket.

Of course.



“Perfect!” said Mum.

“I’ll get the cups.”

She placed the picnic basket beside the garden bench and went inside.

The kittens hurried off to help Dad.



**They shook out the blanket.
WHOOSH!**

One corner landed on Jeffrey.

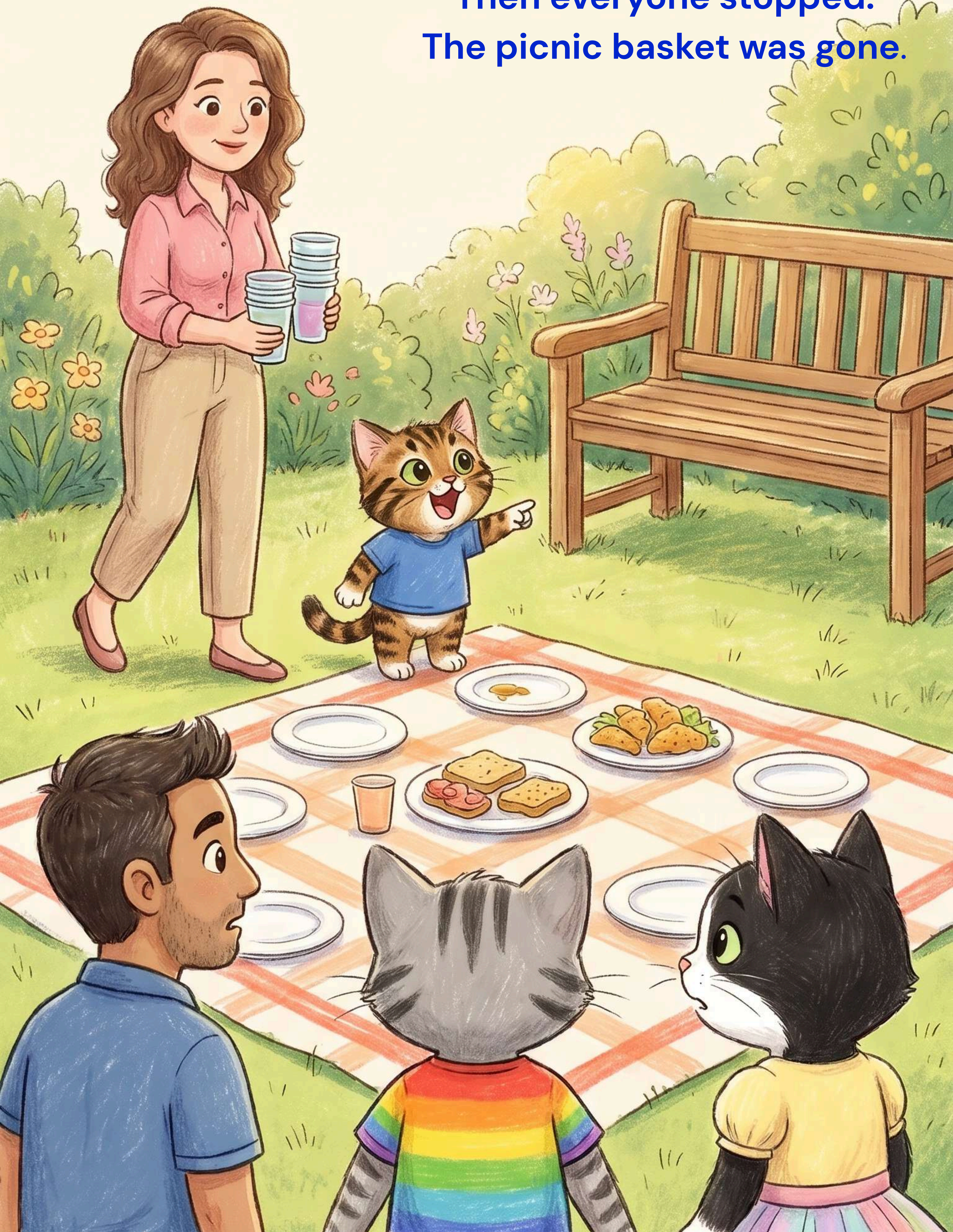
Another landed on Junior.

Georgie Girl laughed.

“You’re supposed to sit ON the blanket!”

At last, everything was ready.
“Let’s eat!” said Junior.
Mum returned with the cups.

Then everyone stopped.
The picnic basket was gone.



Junior blinked.
Once.
Twice.
Then three times.



“Our picnic...”
He looked beneath the bench.
“...has disappeared!”

Jeffrey's ears perked up.

"A mystery!"

Junior looked at him.

"A lunch mystery."

"That makes it even more important," said Jeffrey.



**“We need clues,” said Jeffrey.
Georgie Girl looked around carefully.
Junior sniffed the air.**

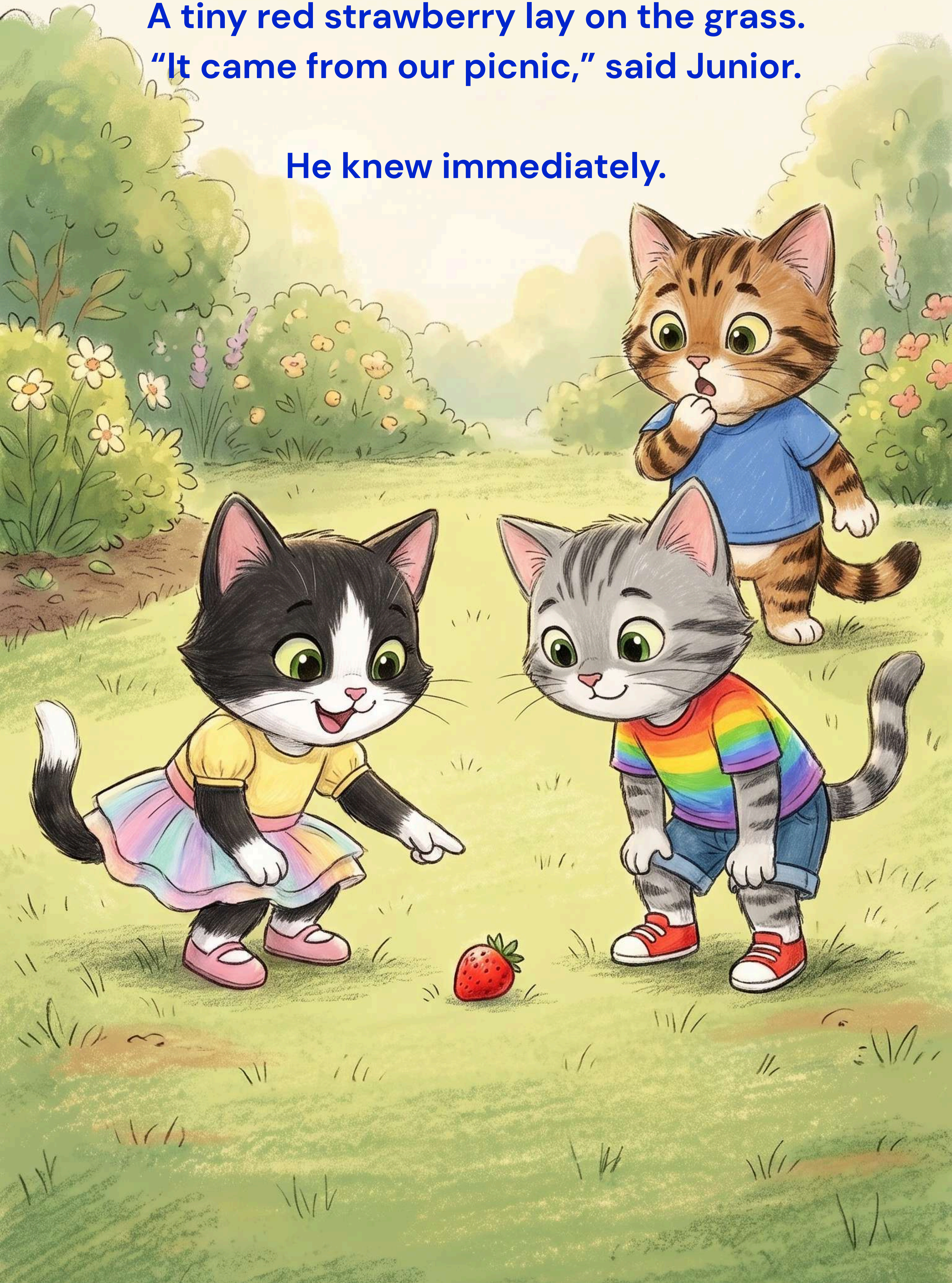


**“I can smell sandwiches.”
Jeffrey nodded.
“That might actually be useful.”**

**Near the bench, Georgie Girl spotted something.
“Look!”**

**A tiny red strawberry lay on the grass.
“It came from our picnic,” said Junior.**

He knew immediately.



A little farther away they found another clue.

A napkin.

The kittens followed the trail across the garden.



**Then they found another strawberry.
And a small piece of lettuce.**

Junior gasped.

"The sandwiches are leaking!"



The trail led past the flowers.

Georgie Girl stopped.

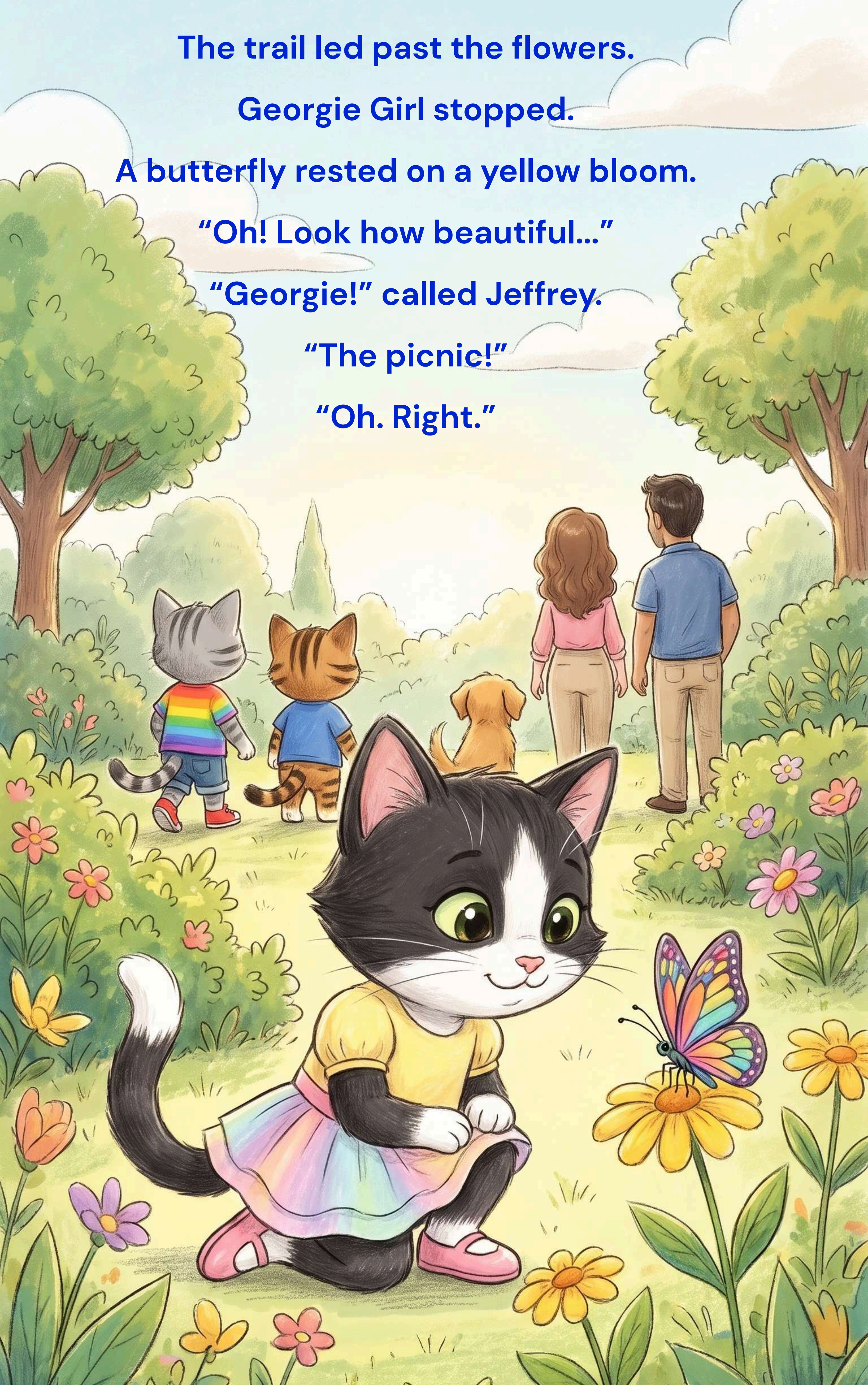
A butterfly rested on a yellow bloom.

"Oh! Look how beautiful..."

"Georgie!" called Jeffrey.

"The picnic!"

"Oh. Right."



The clues led around the garden shed.

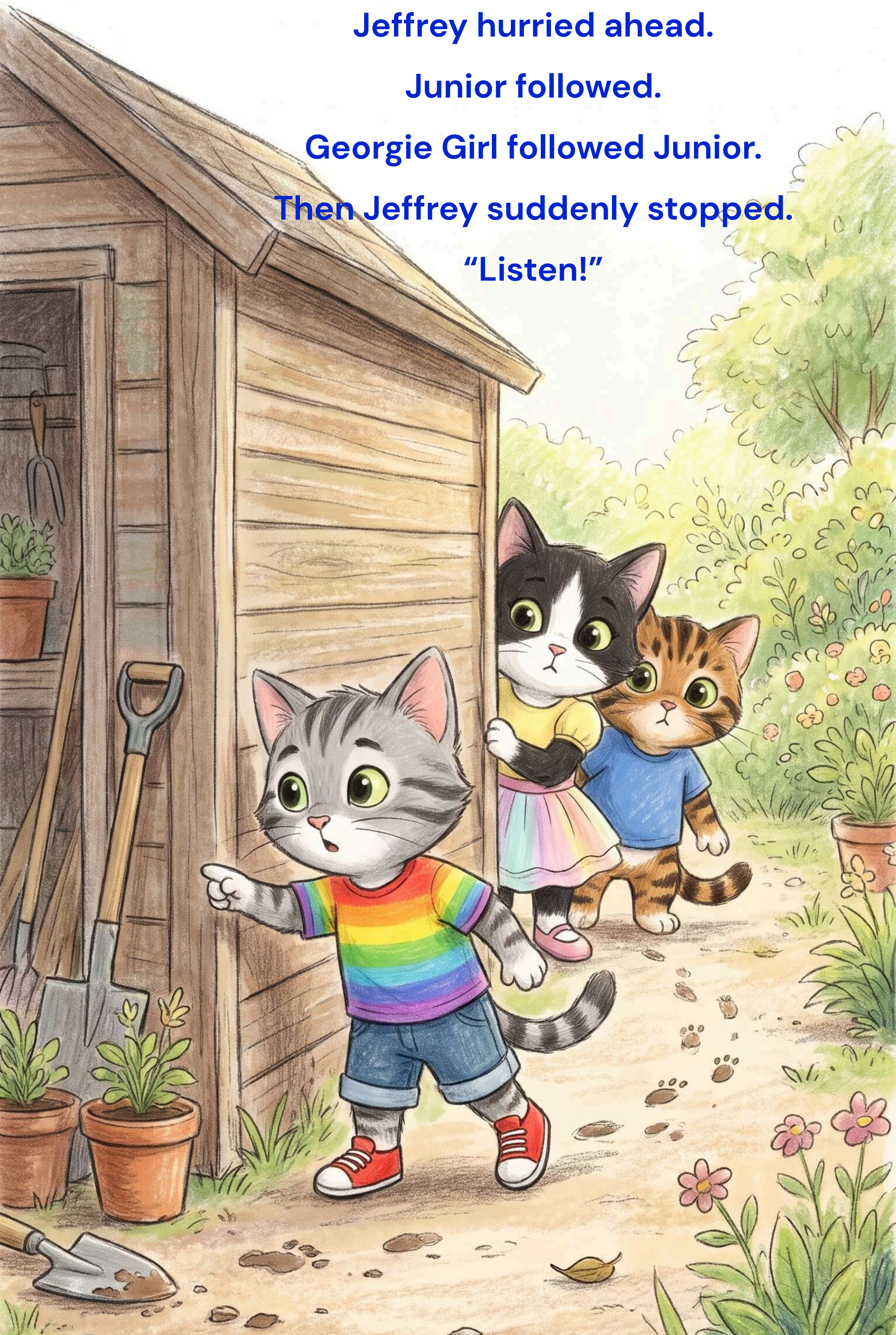
Jeffrey hurried ahead.

Junior followed.

Georgie Girl followed Junior.

Then Jeffrey suddenly stopped.

"Listen!"



SCRITCH.

SCRATCH.

RUSTLE.

Something was moving behind the shed.

Junior stepped closer to Jeffrey.

"What if it's a picnic monster?"



"There are no picnic monsters," said Jeffrey.

Junior thought about that.

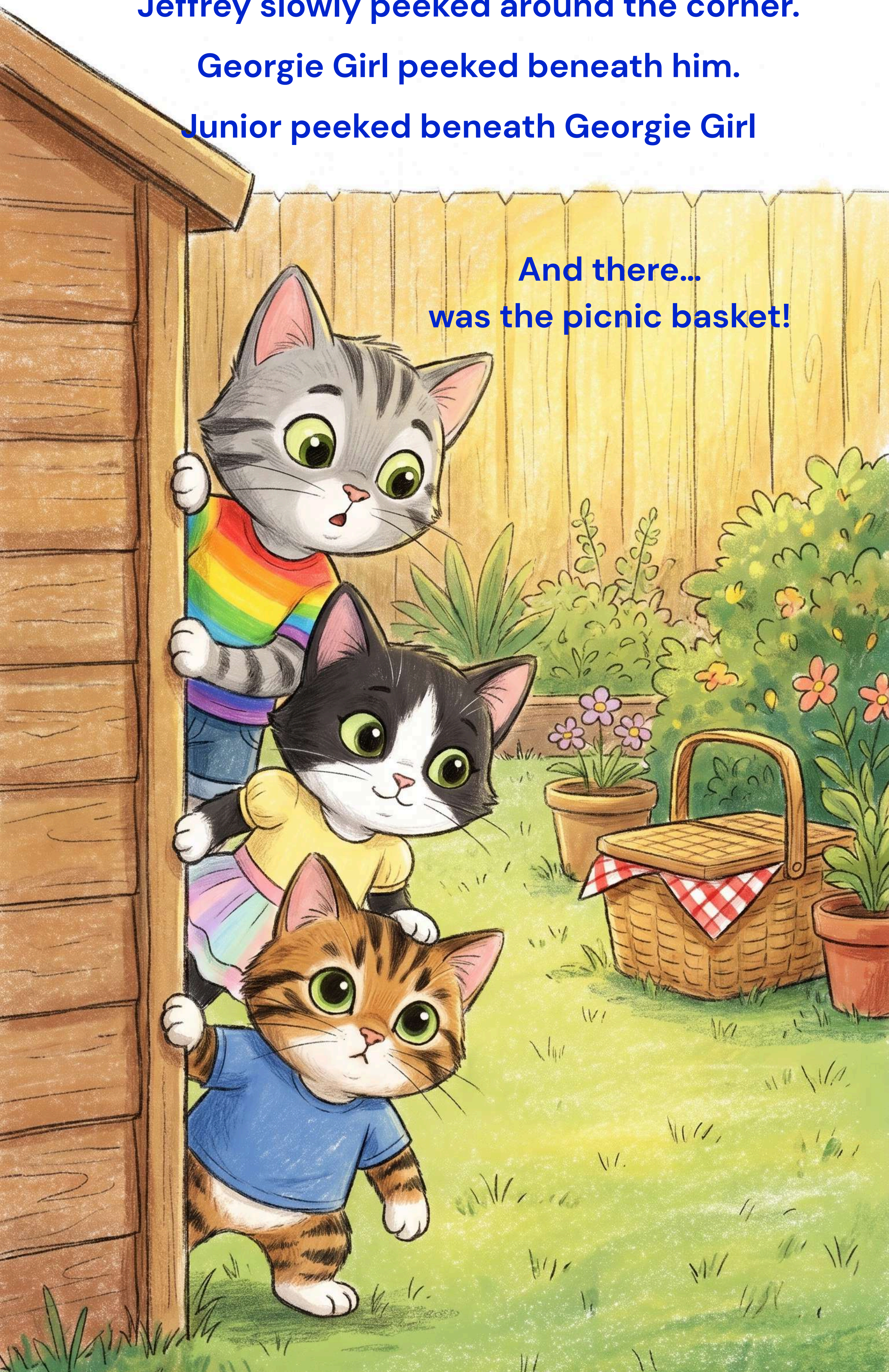
"Good."

Jeffrey slowly peeked around the corner.

Georgie Girl peeked beneath him.

Junior peeked beneath Georgie Girl

**And there...
was the picnic basket!**



But the basket was moving.

Just a little.

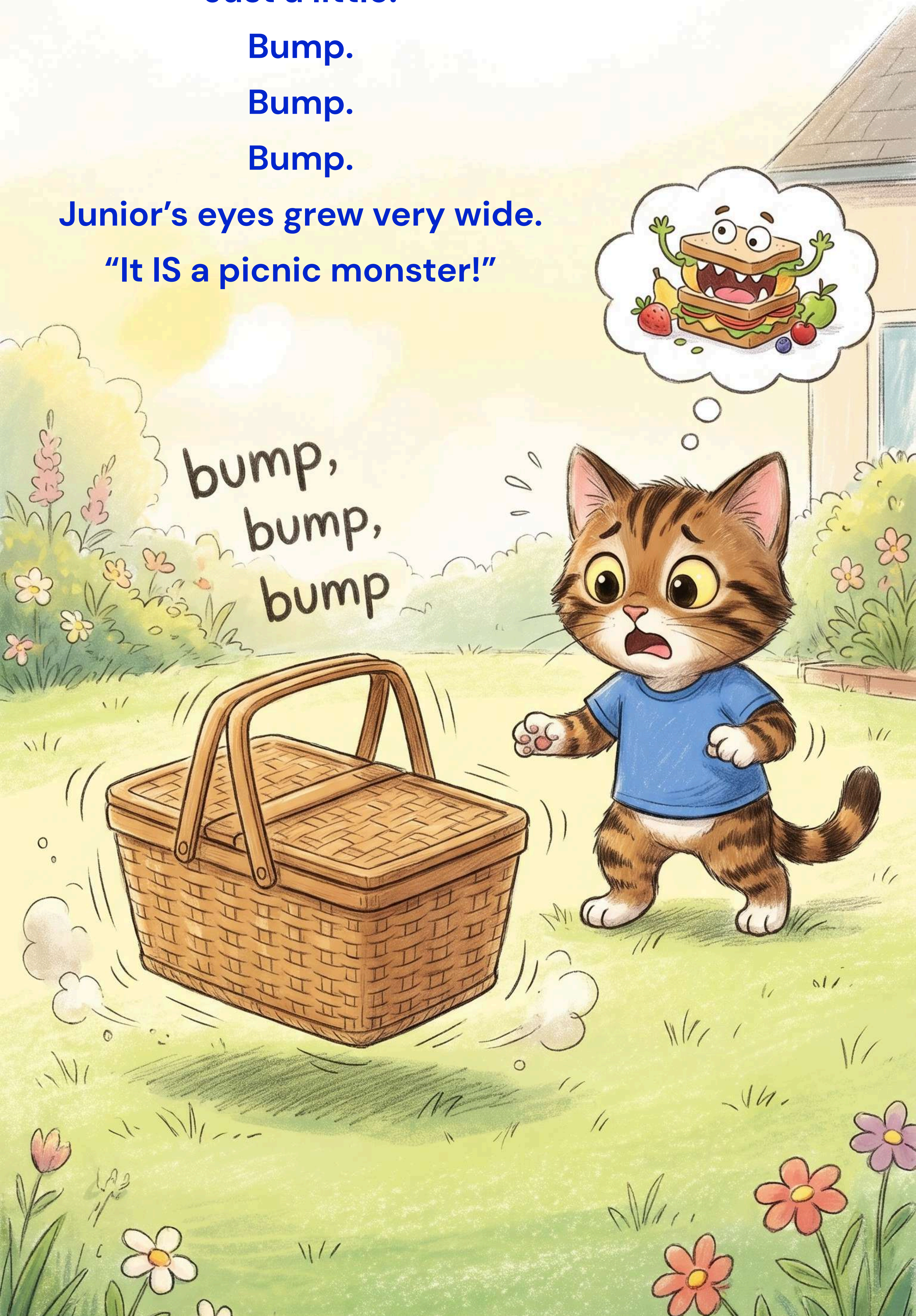
Bump.

Bump.

Bump.

Junior's eyes grew very wide.

"It IS a picnic monster!"



Jeffrey stepped closer.

"Hello?"

The basket moved again.

Then a small furry nose appeared from behind it.

Georgie Girl smiled.

"Oh!"

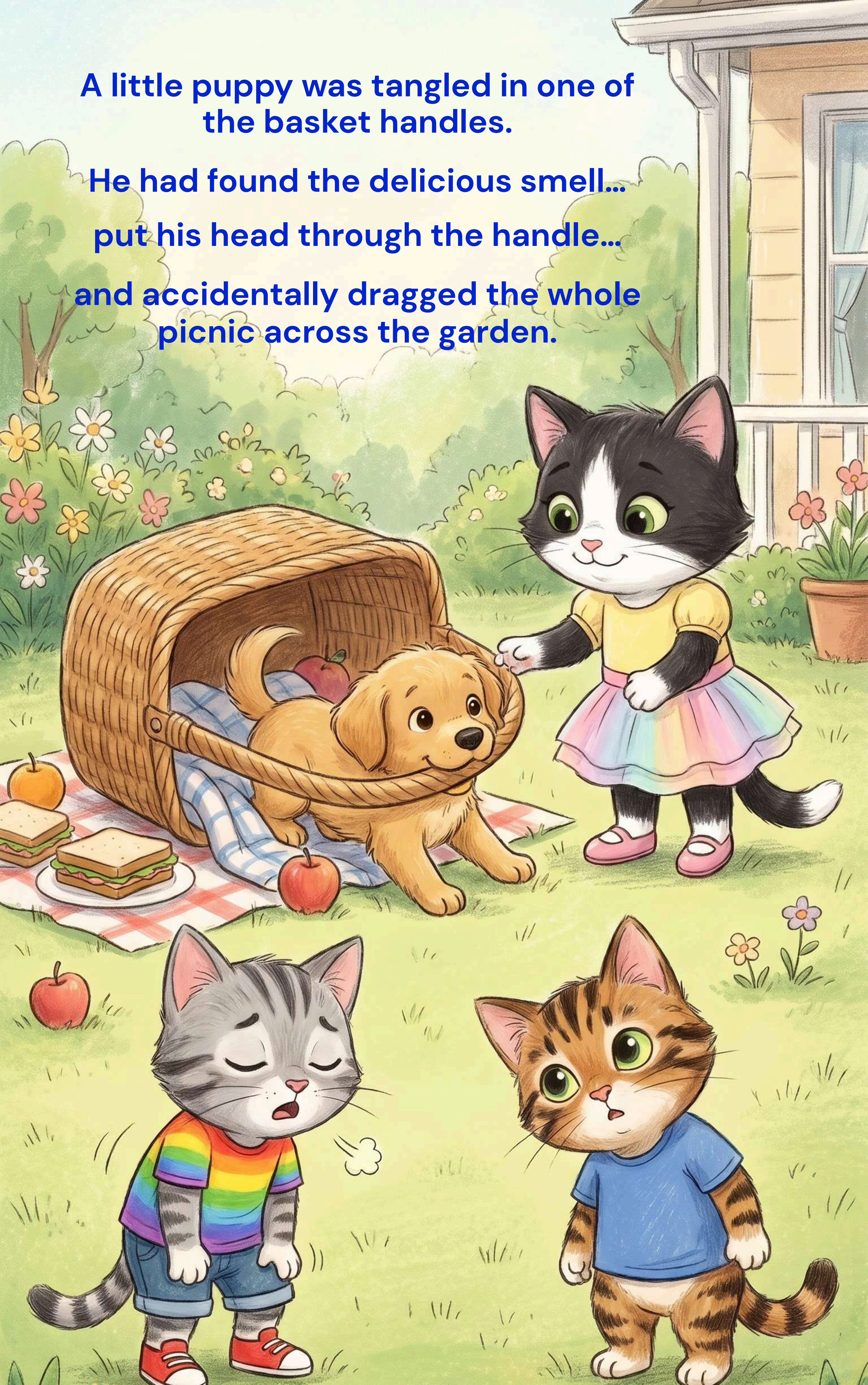


**A little puppy was tangled in one of
the basket handles.**

He had found the delicious smell...

put his head through the handle...

**and accidentally dragged the whole
picnic across the garden.**



“You didn’t steal our picnic,” said Georgie Girl gently.

“You got stuck!”

Dad carefully freed the puppy.

“There you go, little fellow.”

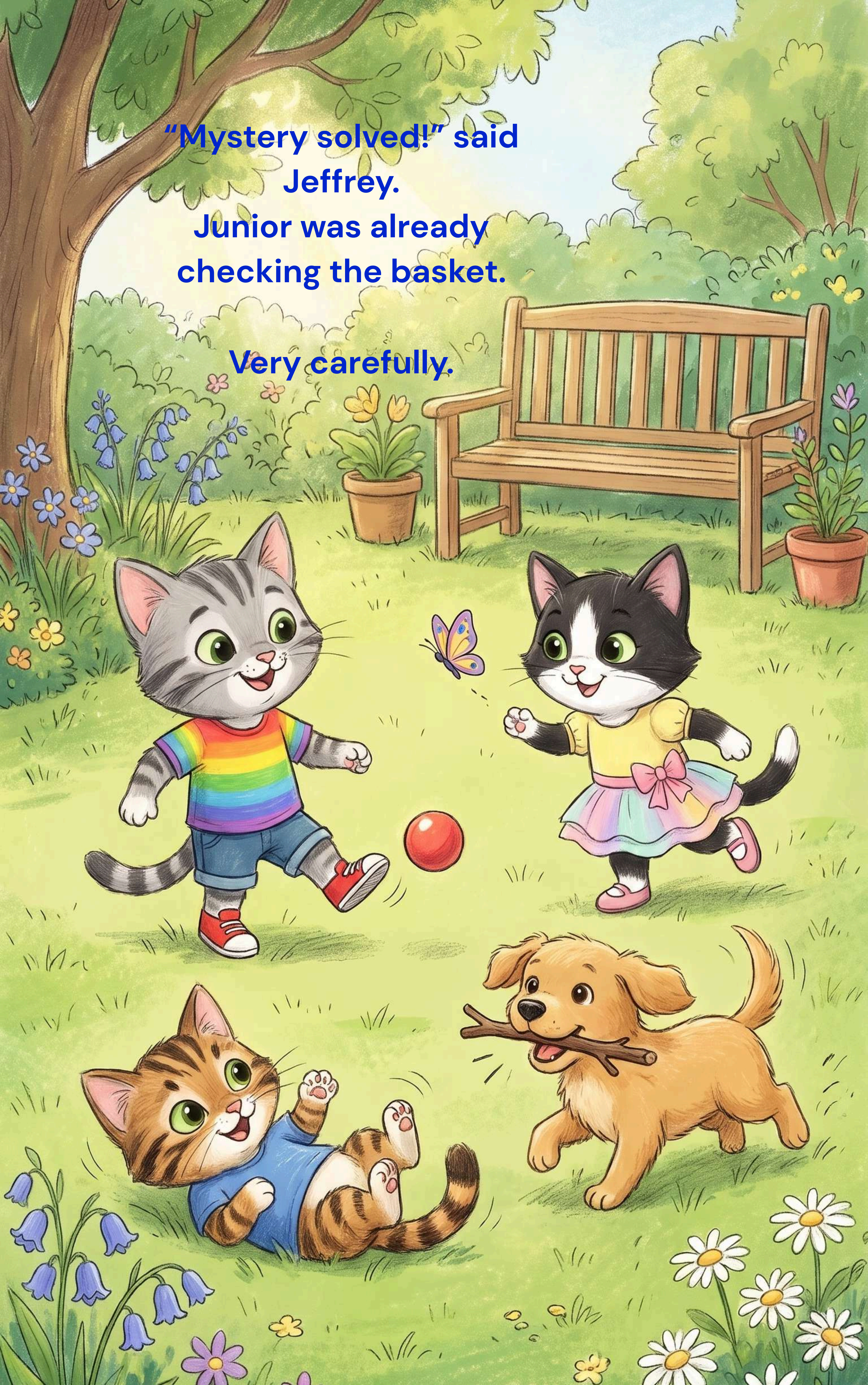
The puppy wagged his tail.



**"Mystery solved!" said
Jeffrey.**

**Junior was already
checking the basket.**

Very carefully.



"The sandwiches are here."

"The fruit is here."

"The treats are..."

Junior stopped.

Everyone waited.

"...here!"



Junior smiled.

"Everything is going to be all right."

**Before the puppy went home, he
received a bowl of water...
and one tiny piece of apple.**

**Junior watched.
“That seems fair.”**



**At last, the Ozcats sat on their picnic blanket.
Jeffrey chose a sandwich.**

Georgie Girl chose some fruit.

**Junior chose...
everything he could reach.**



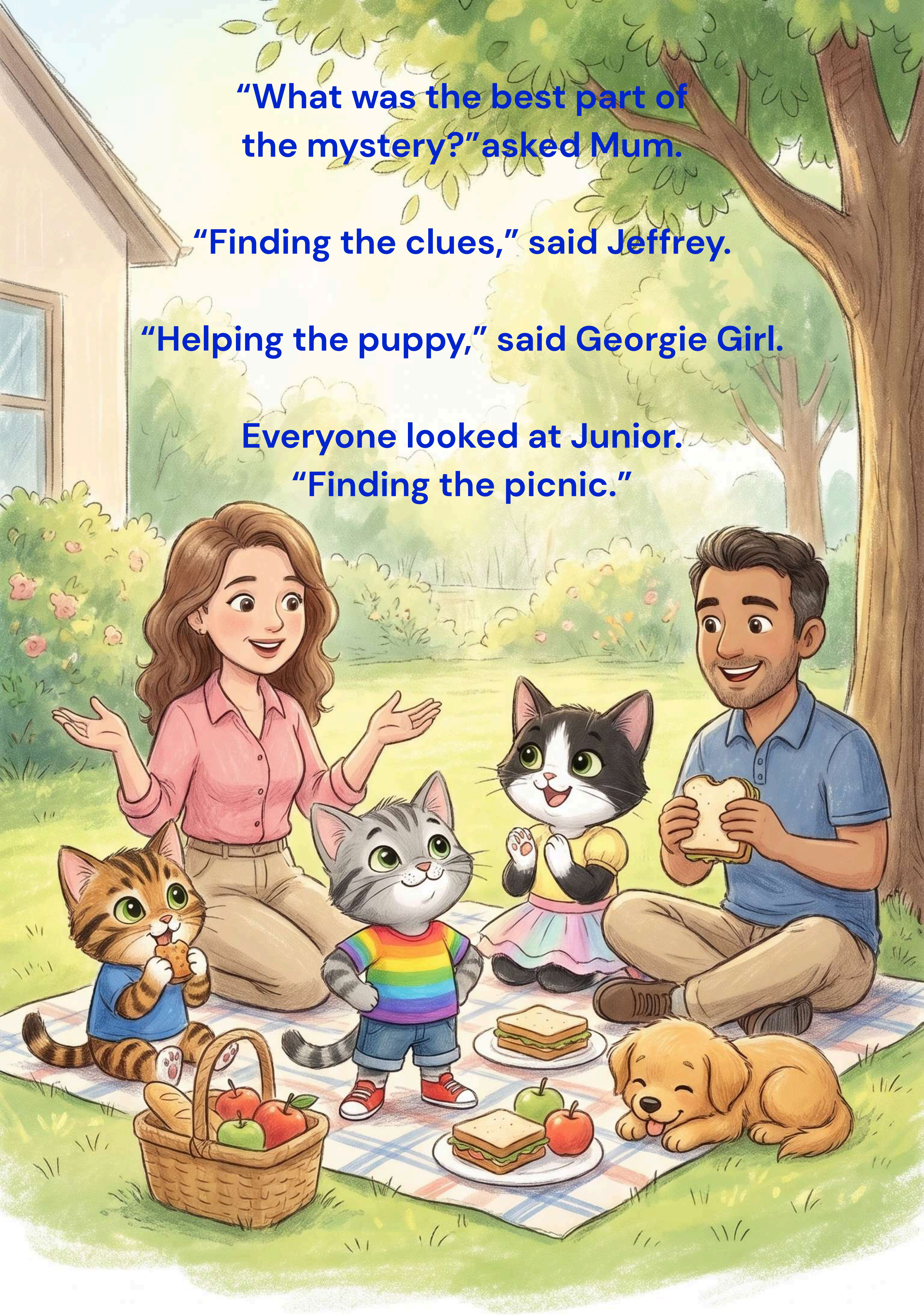
“What was the best part of the mystery?” asked Mum.

“Finding the clues,” said Jeffrey.

“Helping the puppy,” said Georgie Girl.

Everyone looked at Junior.

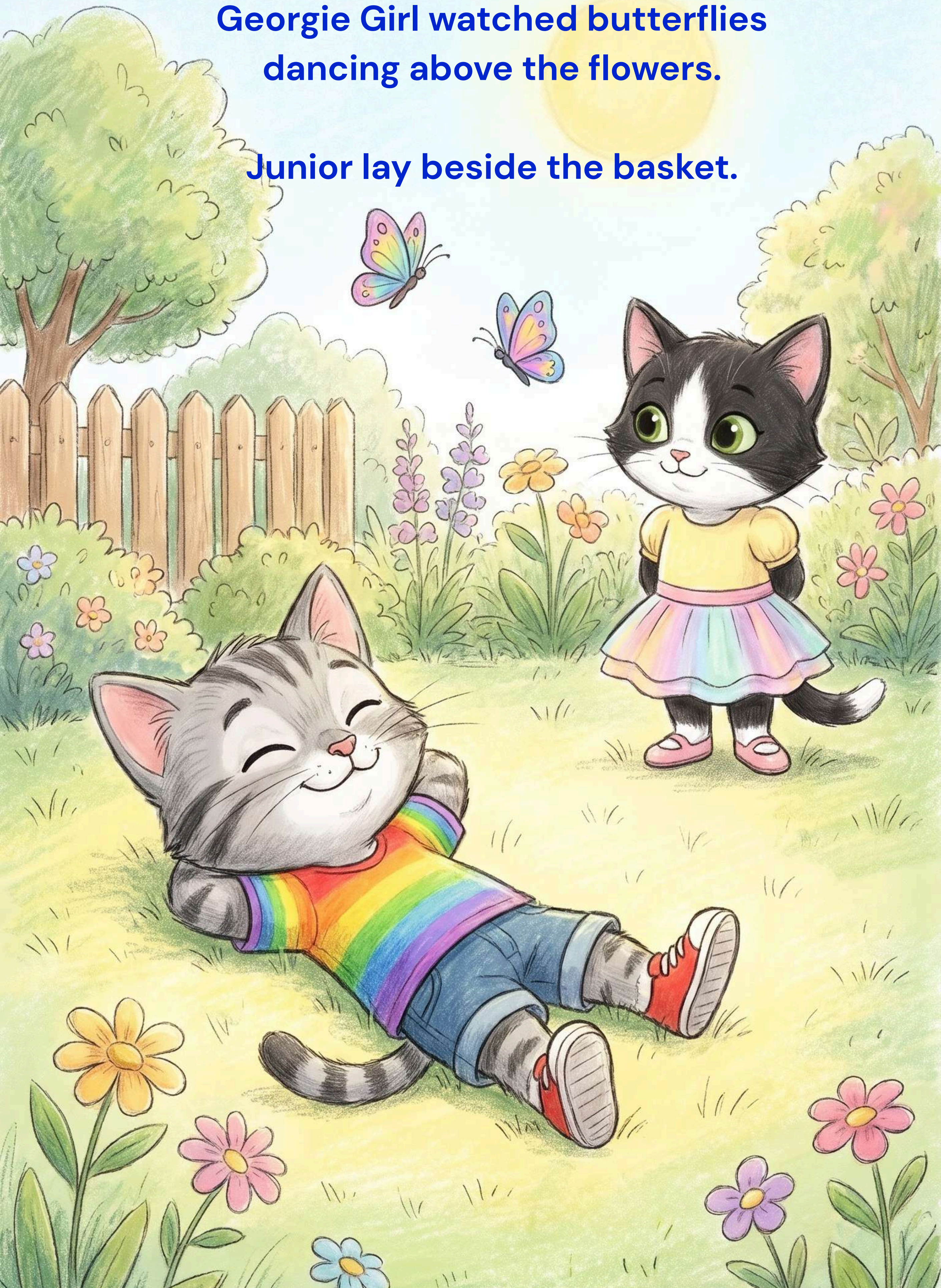
“Finding the picnic.”



**After lunch, Jeffrey stretched out
in the sunshine.**

**Georgie Girl watched butterflies
dancing above the flowers.**

Junior lay beside the basket.



Jeffrey opened one eye.

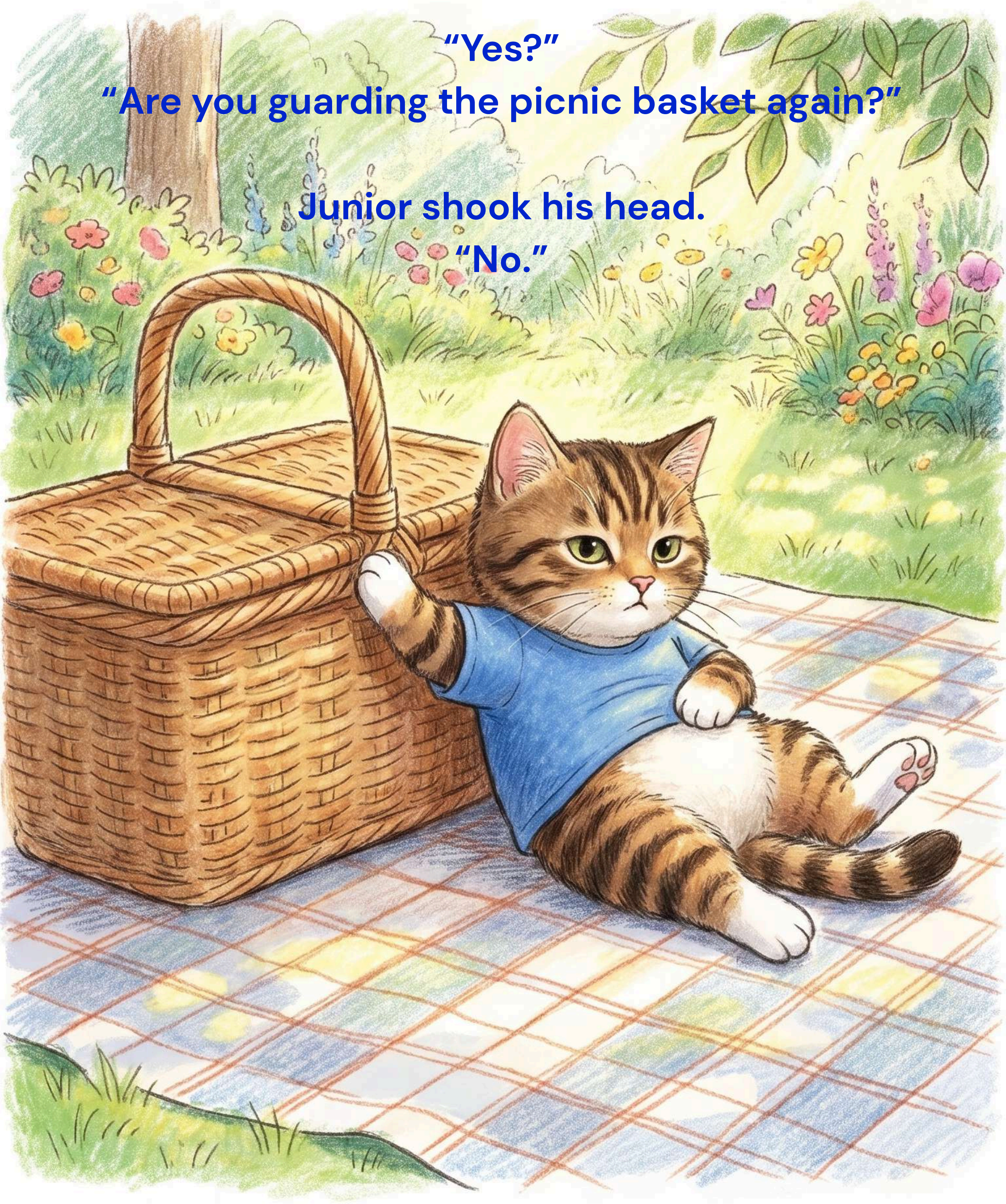
"Junior?"

"Yes?"

"Are you guarding the picnic basket again?"

Junior shook his head.

"No."



"I'm keeping it safe."

**Jeffrey laughed.
Georgie Girl laughed.
Mum and Dad laughed too.**

**Junior smiled.
Someone had to do it.**



Can You Follow the Clues?

Can you remember what the Ozcats found?

- A strawberry
- A napkin
- A piece of lettuce
- One very surprised puppy

Now look back through the story.

Can you find all the clues again?



Make Your Own Picnic Adventure

What would you put in your picnic basket?

Draw or name:

- your favourite sandwich
- your favourite fruit
- something to drink
- one special treat

And remember...

always keep an eye on the picnic basket!

THE END

