

THE MOUSE WHO READS



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Ting is not like most other mice.

Instead of creeping into human houses to eat their food, he does something else.

He sneaks in and reads all their books!

But today, he has been assigned another task.

His mother told him to bring his younger brother Tang along.

Tang, unlike his brother, is like most mice.

He is mostly interested in what he can find to eat.

Ting is trying to ignore him and read his book, but it is difficult.

'Munch, munch. This book doesn't taste very good, brother.' says Tang.

Tang is not reading the books, he is eating them!

'Tang, you're not meant to gnaw on these books!' Ting shouts.

'But what am I supposed to do with them?' Tang asks.

'You are supposed to read them,' Ting replies.

'But I don't know how to read,' says Tang sadly.

Ting stops being mad for a second, and thinks.

Ting and Tang find a nice quiet spot in the living room.

'We need to be careful, though, Tang,' says Ting.

'Why's that?' Tang asks, wiping his face free of paper crumbs.

'There's a cat in here, and if we are too loud, it might hear us,' says Ting.

'Oh, I'll be very quiet,' says Tang.

A few meters away, the house cat is sound asleep.

But it loves to eat mice, and so would be drawn to them like a magnet.

Ting and Tang have to be very careful.

They might end up as this cat's dinner!

Ting starts to teach Tang all the letters and how they sound.

'These letters are like signs that make sounds in my head,' says Tang.

'Yes, that's a good way of looking at it,' says Ting.

All of a sudden, Tang feels an itch on the top of his nose that won't stop.

'Uh oh, brother, I'm going to... ACHOO!'

The sneeze is so loud that dust falls from the bookshelves in the next room.

'Oh no, the cat!' Ting cries, as he sees a grey shape on the floor slowly get up.

The cat is now awake, and not very happy.

It starts to gnash its teeth and tries to find the source of the noise.

'Quick, we've got to hide!' says Ting.

But it is far too late for that.

The cat sees the two mice and gnashes its teeth even harder.

With a big yowl, it leaps towards them!

Just in time, Ting holds up the book like a shield.

'Run, Tang, go for the high cupboards!' he shouts.

Tang and Ting race to climb the cupboards.

But Tang slips on a bit of wood and nearly falls off!

The cat snarls below them, but Ting tries to ignore it.

With all his strength, he manages to pull Tang up to the ledge!

'Turning all those pages have given you muscles, brother!' Tang says.

The cat stares up at them, unable to reach the high spot they are at.

'Better luck next time, furball,' says Tang.

'Now, we can get back to reading!' says Ting.

Ting opens the book he brought with him.

The cat still growls at them, but they ignore it.

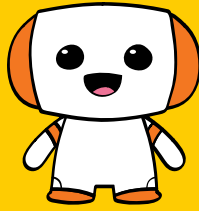
Ting and Tang can finally read together.

The more Tang reads, the better he gets.

Soon, he can read the kinds of stories his brother can!

'I'm so glad you stopped me gnawing on this book,' says Tang.

'It's so much better now I can read it!'



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