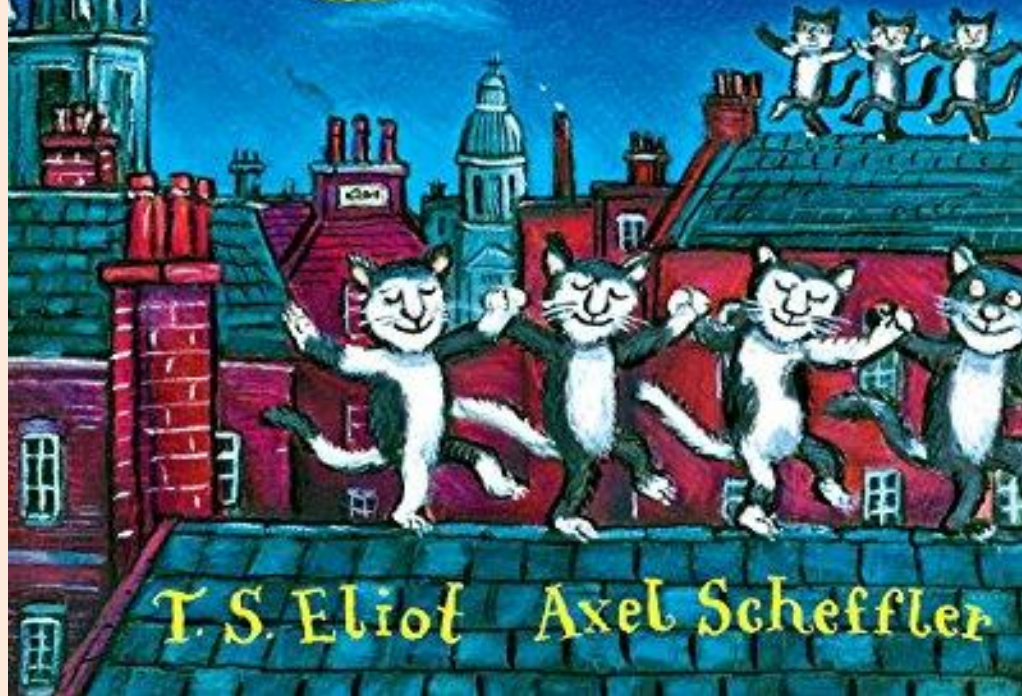


→ FABER CLASSICS →

Old Possum's Book of Practical

# Cats



T. S. Eliot Axel Scheffler

# THE OLD GUMBIE CAT

I have a Gumbie Cat in mind, her name is Jennyanydots;  
Her coat is of the tabby kind, with tiger stripes and leopard  
spots.

All day she sits upon the stair or on the steps or on the mat:  
She sits and sits and sits and sits—and that's what makes a  
Gumbie Cat!



But when the day's hustle and bustle is done,  
Then the Gumbie Cat's work is but hardly begun.  
And when all the family's in bed and asleep,  
She slips down the stairs to the basement to creep.  
She is deeply concerned with the ways of the mice—  
Their behaviour's not good and their manners not nice;  
So when she has got them lined up on the matting,  
She teaches them music, crocheting and tatting.



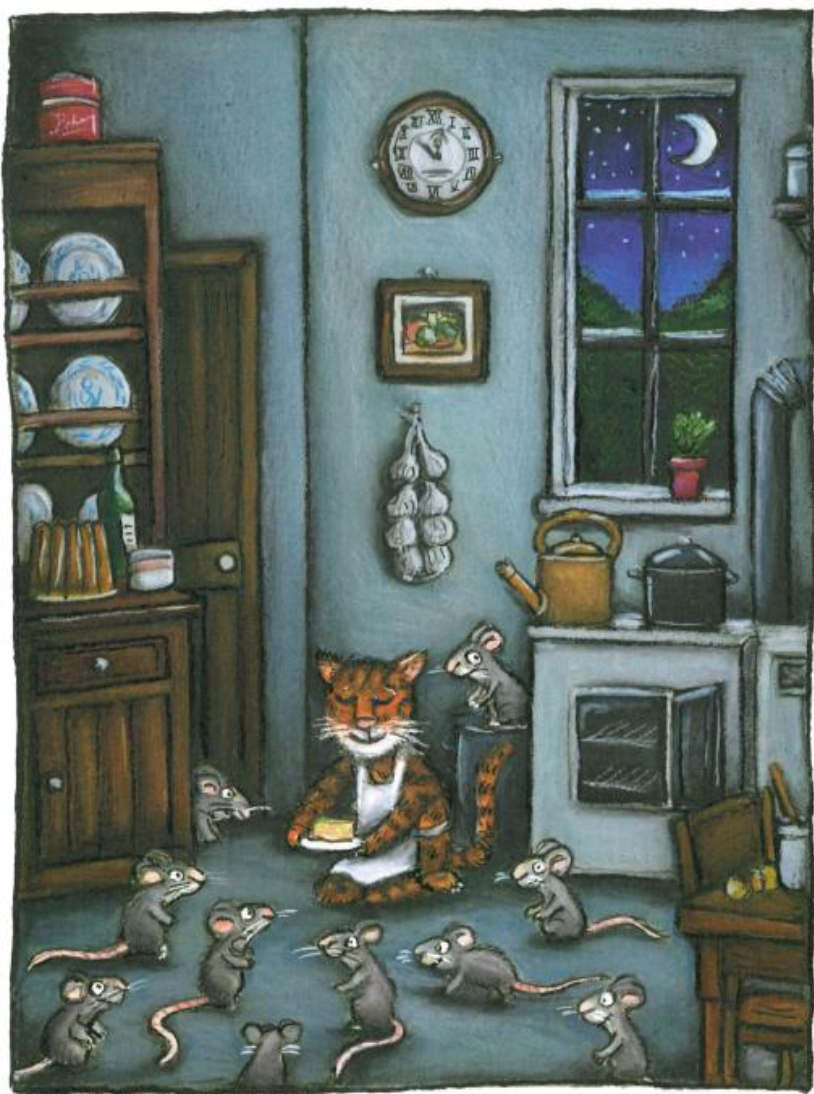


I have a Gumbie Cat in mind, her name is Jennyanydots;  
Her equal would be hard to find, she likes the warm and  
sunny spots.

All day she sits beside the hearth or in the sun or on my hat:  
She sits and sits and sits and sits—and that's what makes a  
Gumbie Cat!

But when the day's hustle and bustle is done,  
Then the Gumbie Cat's work is but hardly begun.  
As she finds that the mice will not ever keep quiet,  
She is sure it is due to irregular diet  
And believing that nothing is done without trying,  
She sets straight to work with her baking and frying.  
She makes them a mouse-cake of bread and dried peas,  
And a *beautiful* fry of lean bacon and cheese.

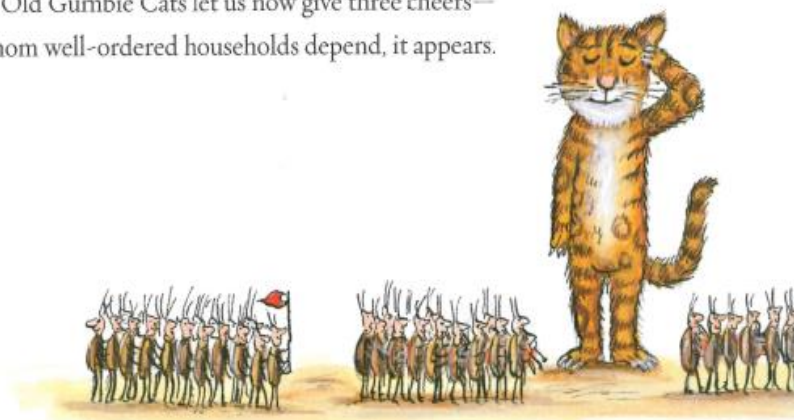




I have a Gumbie Cat in mind, her name is Jennyanydots;  
The curtain-cord she likes to wind, and tie it into sailor-knots.  
She sits upon the window-sill, or anything that's smooth and flat:  
She sits and sits and sits and sits—and that's what makes a  
Gumbie Cat!

But when the day's hustle and bustle is done,  
Then the Gumbie Cat's work is but hardly begun.  
She thinks that the cockroaches just need employment  
To prevent them from idle and wanton destruction.  
So she's formed, from that lot of disorderly louts,  
A troop of well-disciplined helpful boy-scouts,  
With a purpose in life and a good deed to do—  
And she's even created a Beetles' Tattoo.

So for Old Gumbie Cats let us now give three cheers—  
On whom well-ordered households depend, it appears.



# Rhythm & Rhyme

# Rhythm & Rhyme

- Rhythm – the ‘beat’ of the poem.
- Rhyme – words or ends of words which sound the same or similar, often at the end of line.

# Rhythm

Which do you think has a better rhythm?

*Jellicle Cats come out tonight*

*Jellicle Cats come one, come all*

*The Jellicle Moon is shining bright*

*Jellicles come to The Jellicle Ball*

# Rhythm

Which do you think has a better rhythm?

*Jellicle Cats come out tonight*

*Jellicle Cats always come one, come all*

*The Jellicle Moon is in the sky, and it is shining  
bright*

*Jellicles come to The Amazing Jellicle Ball*

# The Old Gumbie Cat

I have a Gumbie Cat in mind,  
Her name is Jennyanydots;  
Her coat is of the tabby kind,  
with tiger stripes and leopard spots.  
All day she sits upon the stair,  
on the steps or on the mat;  
She sits and sits and sits,  
And that's what makes a Gumbie Cat!

# Your Assignment

- Using the structure of The Old Grumbie Cat, write your own verse about a pet/animal of your choice.
- Remember to keep the rhythm, and include rhyme where appropriate.

# The Old Gumbie Cat

I have a \_\_\_\_\_ in mind,

Its name is \_\_\_\_\_;

Its \_\_\_\_\_ is of the \_\_\_\_\_ kind,

with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

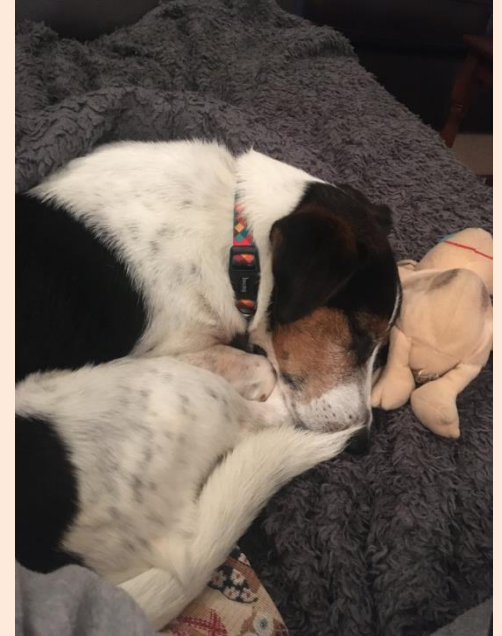
All day it \_\_\_\_\_ upon the \_\_\_\_\_,

Or on the \_\_\_\_\_ or on the \_\_\_\_\_;

It \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_,

And that's what makes a \_\_\_\_\_ !

# The Idle Hound



# The Idle Hound

I have an Idle Hound in **mind**,  
His name is Mister **Woody**;  
His fur is of the softest **kind**,  
But his paws are always **muddy**.  
All day he sleeps upon the bed,  
Or on the sofa or the **ground**;  
He sleeps and sleeps and sleeps,  
And that's what makes an Idle **Hound**!

