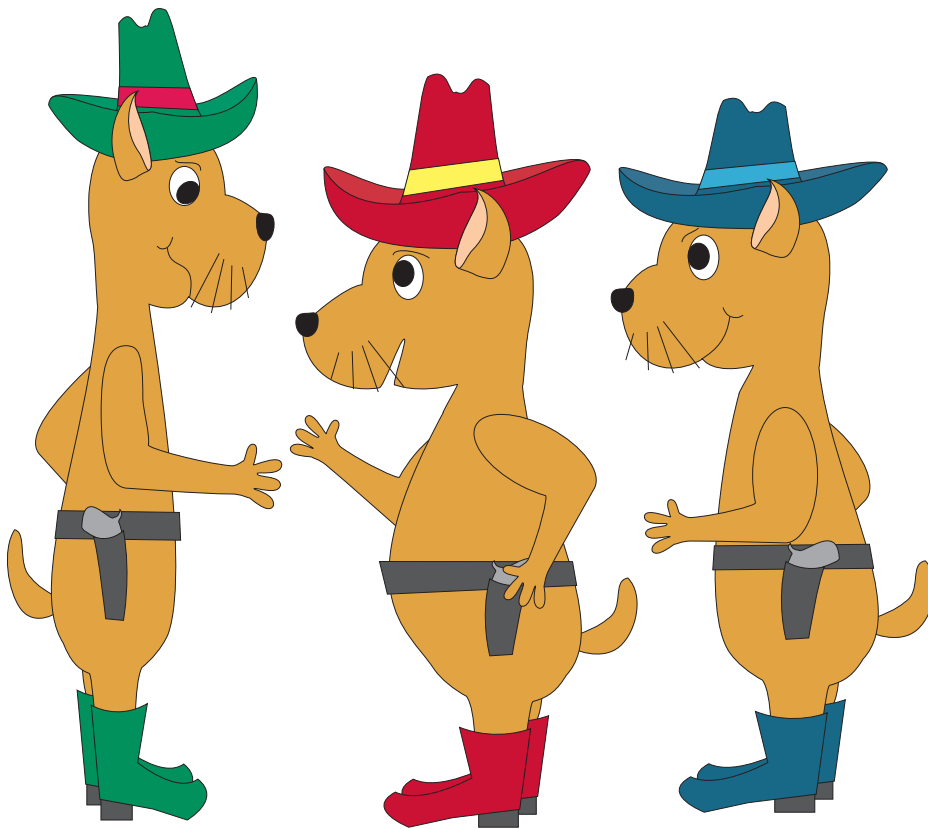




*Second Grade  
Phonics &  
Reading*

*Book 11  
Lessons 56 to 60*

# Bobcat Cowboys



Written and illustrated by  
Brian Davis

Otto Muskrat pulled back the reins. The stagecoach came to a stop. Otto Muskrat shook with fear. The road was blocked. Three bobcat cowboys grinned.

“This is a stickup!” said Billybob Bobcat.

Another Bobcat held a tree limb over his head.

“No it’s not, Billybob,” said Bubba Bobcat.

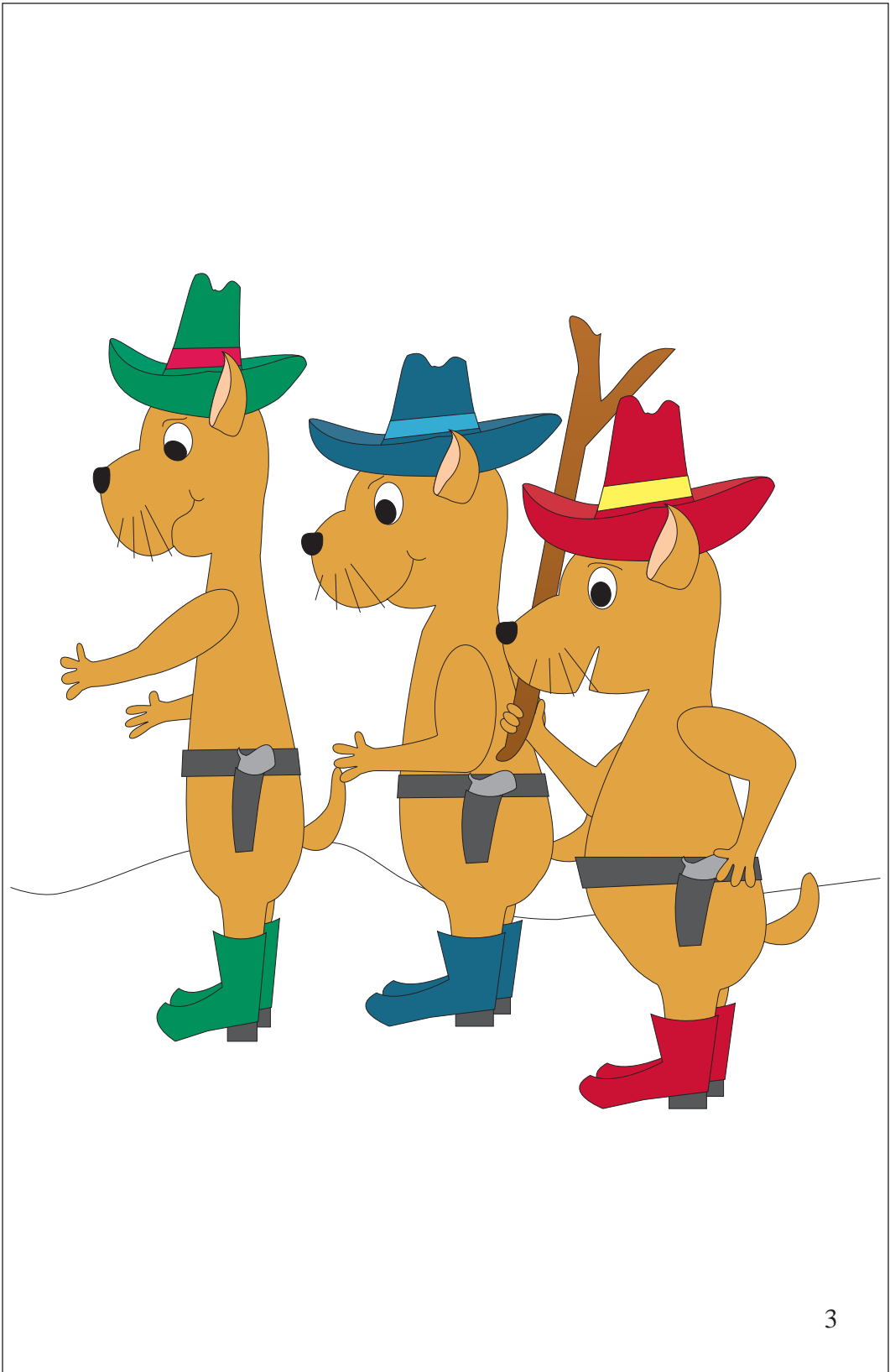
“This is a stickup.”

“Hush up, Bubba,” grumbled Billybob Bobcat.

“I’ll get the strongbox,” said Bobbybill Bobcat. He pulled the strongbox off the stagecoach.

“Not the goldfish!” groaned Otto Muskrat.

“We love goldfish,” grinned Bobbybill Bobcat. The bobcat cowboys rode off into the sunset.



Grace Groundhog leaned out of the stagecoach.  
“Who were those mean cats?” asked Grace.

“That was the Bobcat Cowboy Gang,” answered Otto Muskrat.

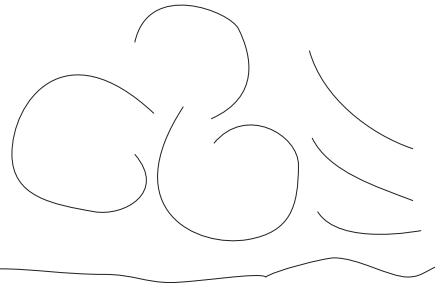
“Oh, my!” sighed Grace. She waved her paper fan.

Walt Woodchuck opened the stagecoach door.  
“Did they get the strongbox?”

Otto wiped his eyebrows, “I’m afraid so.”

“We need to get those goldfish back,” said Walt Woodchuck. “Let’s go to town.”

Otto Muskrat shook the reins. The stagecoach drove on to Rowdent Gulch.





It was almost sundown in Rowdent Gulch. The stagecoach rumbled into town. Otto stopped in front of Sheriff Prairie Dog's office. Otto hopped off the stagecoach.

"Sheriff, there was a holdup," yelled Otto Muskrat.

Sheriff Prairie Dog stepped outside. He was eating a cupcake. "Who was it?"

"The Bobcat Cowboy Gang," stammered Otto Muskrat. "They got the strongbox. It was full of goldfish."

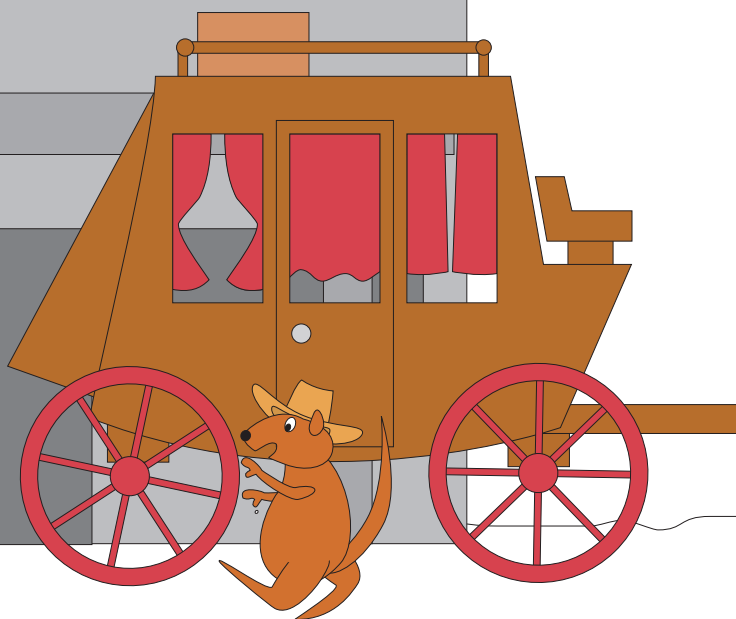
The sheriff shuddered, "Those are some mean cats."

"Are you going to get them?" asked Otto.

"No," said the sheriff. "I have a better plan. They will come to us. Go get Babs Bluebird."

Sheriff Prairie Dog started walking to the sawmill.

Sheriff  
Rowdent Gulch





The bobcats were back at their campsite. They made a big campfire.

“Let’s cook some goldfish,” said Billybob Bobcat.

“I’ll get the strongbox,” said Bobbybill Bobcat.

“I’ll get my baseball glove,” said Bubba Bobcat.

“Baseball glove? Why do we need a baseball glove?” asked Bobbybill Bobcat.

“So I can catch fish,” said Bubba.

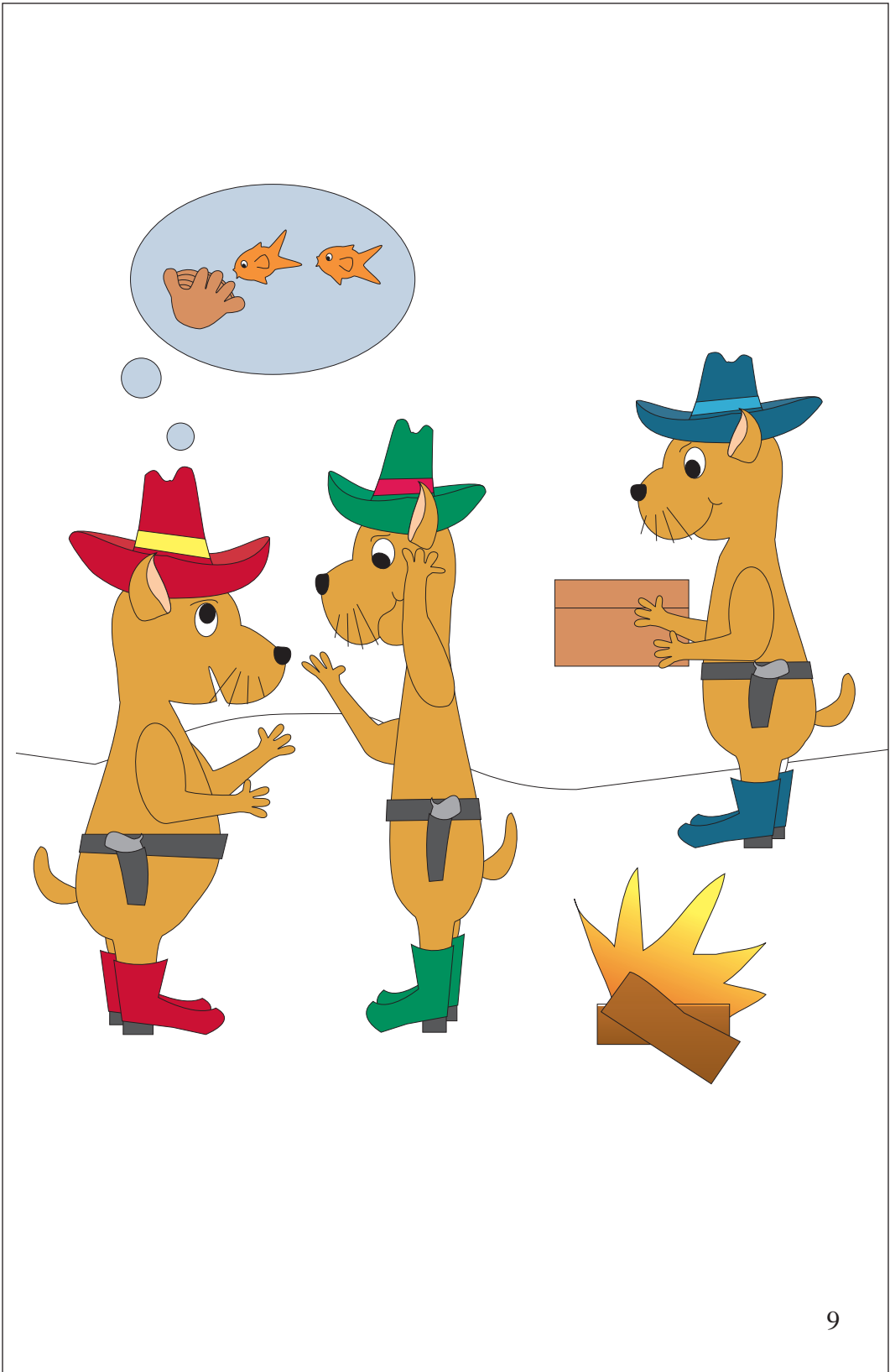
“Hush up, Bubba,” grumbled Billybob Bobcat.

Babs Bluebird flew over the campsite. Babs dropped a paper and left. Billybob picked it up.

“What’s it say?” asked Bobbybill Bobcat.

Bubba giggled, “Paper doesn’t talk. You have to read it.”

“Hush up, Bubba,” said Billybob Bobcat.



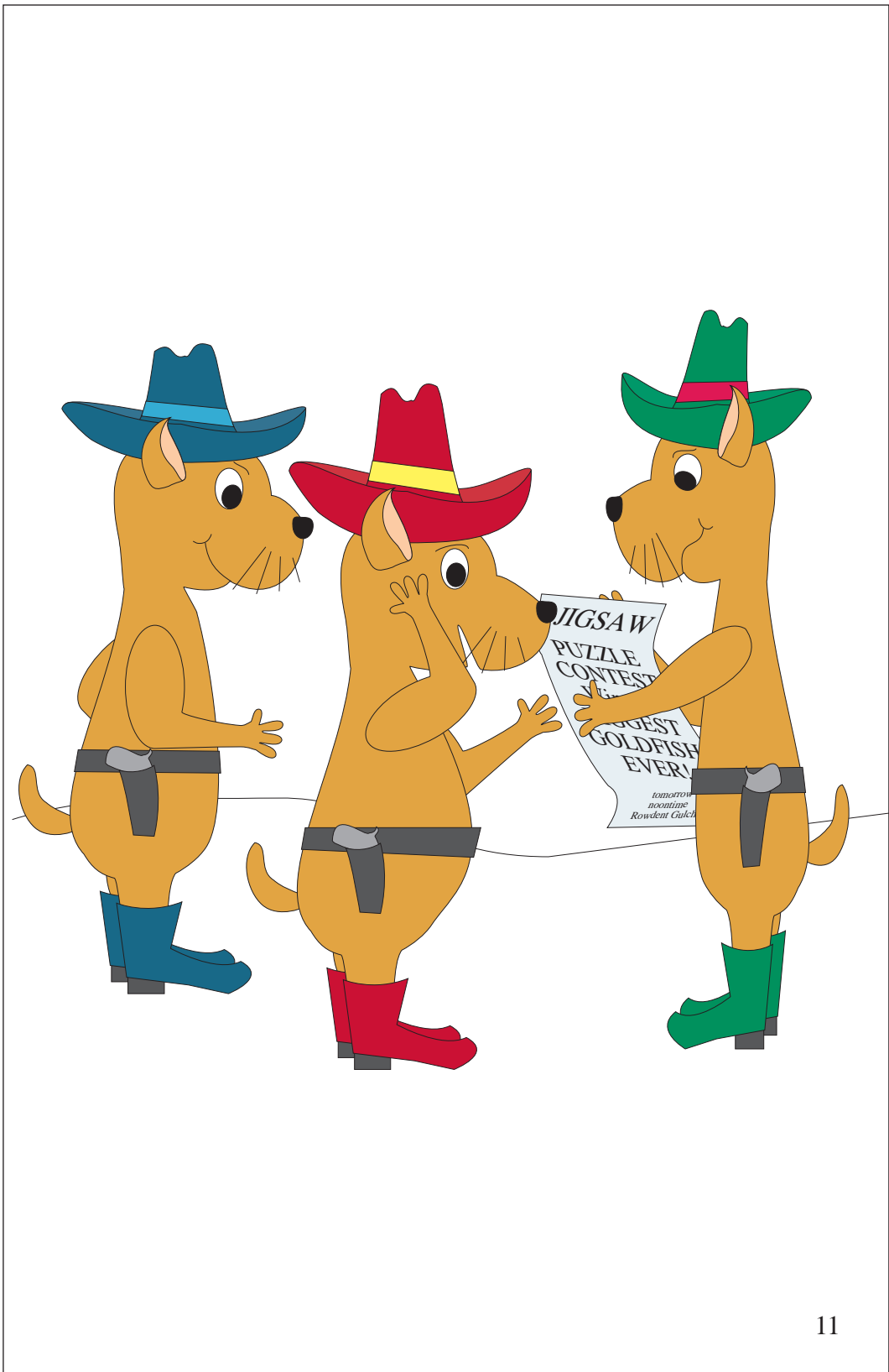
Billybob Bobcat began to read the paper.

“It says here that Rowdent Gulch is having a contest. It’s a jigsaw puzzle contest. First prize is the biggest goldfish ever. It only costs one strongbox of goldfish to enter.”

“Oh! I can win. I’m very smart!” said Bubba Bobcat. Bubba scratched his head. “What’s a jigsaw puzzle?”

“Hush up, Bubba,” grumbled Billybob Bobcat.

The bobcat cowboys packed up their campsite. The contest began at noontime the next day. They began to ride to Rowdent Gulch.

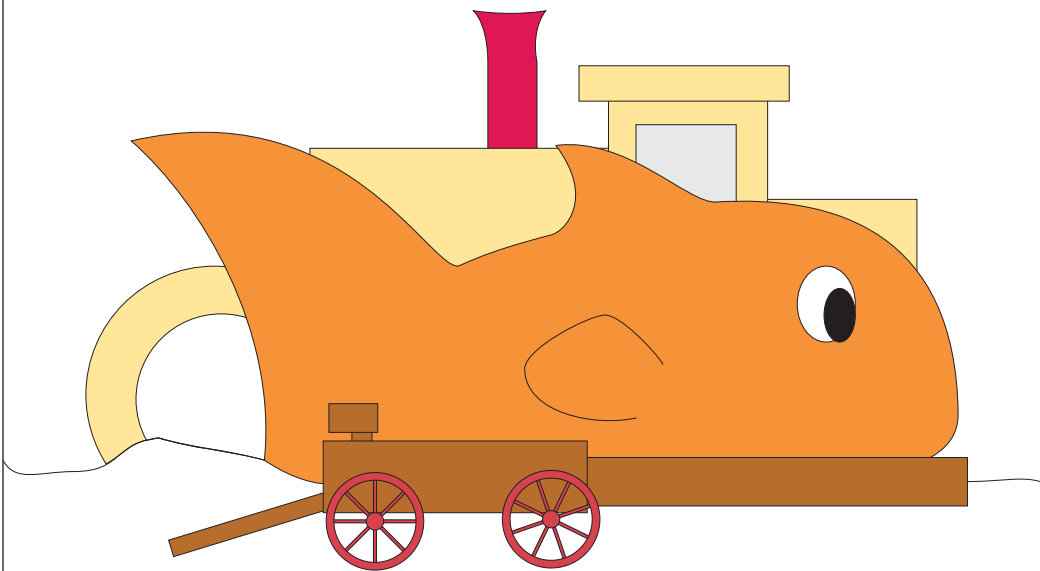


The town worked all night by the stream. By morning, they were done. An old steamboat looked like the biggest goldfish ever.

“Do you think this will work?” asked a chipmunk. Chip Chipmunk was the steamboat pilot.

Sheriff Prairie Dog patted him on the back.

“Yes. We’ll see the last of the Bobcat Cowboy Gang.”



Billybob, Bobbybill, and Bubba Bobcat rode into Rowdent Gulch.

Grace Groundhog was at a table. “May I help you fine bobcats?” asked Grace.

“We’re here for the jigsaw puzzle contest,” said Billybob Bobcat.

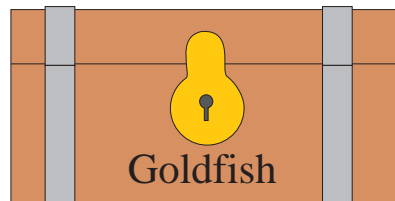
“I thought we were here to steal the big goldfish,” said Bubba.

“Hush up, Bubba,” grumbled Billybob Bobcat.

“That will be one strongbox full of goldfish please,” said Grace.

Bobbybill Bobcat gave her the strongbox. Grace gave them a jigsaw puzzle.

“The contest begins at noontime. Be the first team done with the jigsaw puzzle. You will win the goldfish prize.”



At noontime the contest began. Now, bobcats are not good at jigsaw puzzles. The bobcats had to win. So, the town had a plan. They would make the bobcats win.

Walt Woodchuck hid behind the bank. He set off some fireworks. Billybob and Bobbybill watched the fireworks. Bubba was still working on the puzzle.

A mouse hopped up to him. “Mr. Bobcat, your shoelace is not tied.”

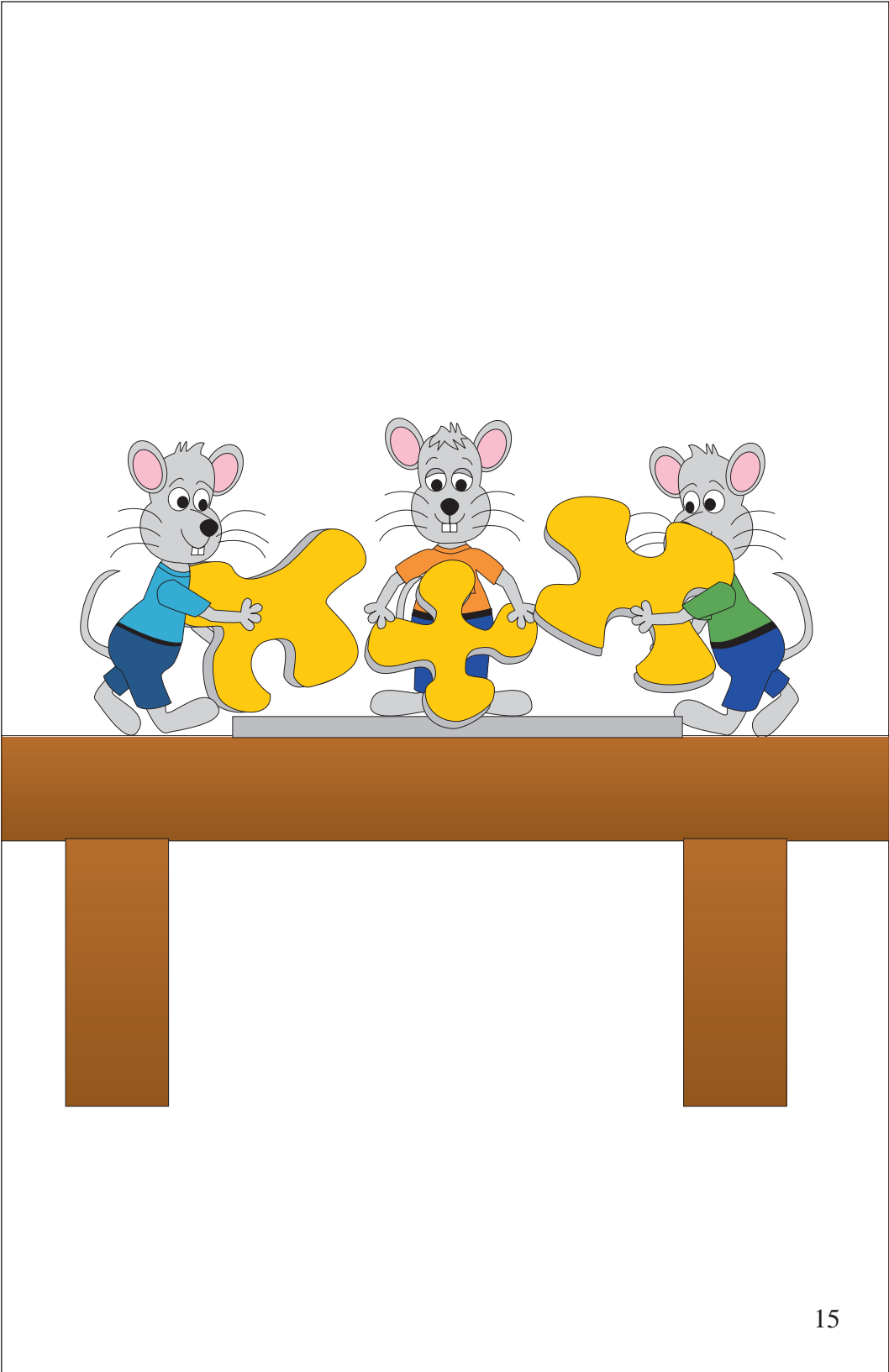
“Thank you mouse,” said Bubba.

He bent down to tie his shoelace. Other mice scrambled to put the puzzle together.

Bubba sat up. “Hey! Cowboy boots don’t have shoelaces.” Then he saw the puzzle. “I won! Our puzzle is done.”

The whole town cheered.

“You are good at jigsaw puzzles,” said Bobbybill Bobcat.



Sheriff Prairie Dog led a parade. They stopped at the stream.

“There it is!” said the sheriff.

Bubba looked at the goldfish. “Wow!” yelled Bubba.

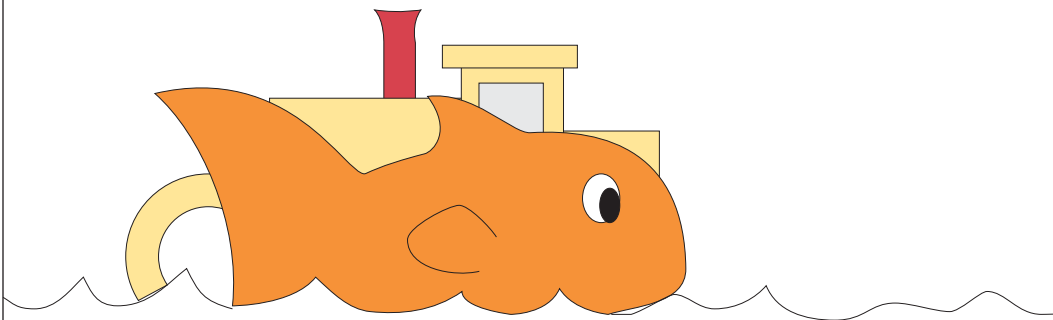
“It’s the biggest goldfish ever,” said Billybob.

The bobcats ran to the goldfish steamboat. A door was hidden under a fin. Sheriff Prairie Dog pushed them into the door. He locked the door. The bobcat cowboys were trapped.

Chip Chipmunk steered the steamboat downstream. The bobcats were going to the Dog City jail. The goldfish of Rowdent Gulch were safe.

“I don’t think this is a real fish,” said Bubba Bobcat.

“Hush up, Bubba,” grumbled Billybob Bobcat.



*Bobcat Cowboys* word list:

baseball	enter	Muskrat	shoelace
biggest	ever	noontime	shuddered
Billybob	eyebrows	opened	sighed
bluebird	fireworks	Otto	stagecoach
Bobbybill	flew	outside	stammered
bobcat	Gang	paper	steamboat
Bubba	glove	parade	stickup
campfire	goldfish	pilot	stream
campsite	grinned	Prairie	strongbox
catch	groaned	pulled	sunset
cheered	Groundhog	puzzle	table
chipmunk	grumbled	reins	team
contest	Gulch	Rowdent	together
cowboys	hidden	rumbled	watched
cupcake	holdup	sawmill	what's
doesn't	jigsaw	scrambled	who
downstream	limb	scratched	window
dropped	morning	Sheriff	Woodchuck