

 Songbirds

Phonics

# Top Cat



Julia  
Donaldson



Oxford  
Reading  
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### **Talk together**

Ask the child to

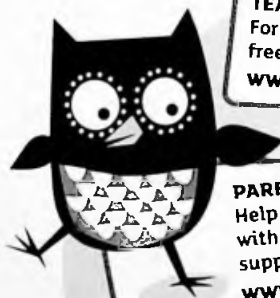
- Point to the letters in the box on the back cover and say the sound (not letter name) that each letter usually makes in words (e.g. *c* as in *cat*). Tell the child each letter sound if necessary.
- Look out for these letters in the story and try to remember the sound they make.

### **Read the story**

Remember, children learn best when reading is relaxed and enjoyable so give lots of praise.

- Read the first word on page 1, placing your finger under the word. Tell the child that this word *l* is a word you meet in a lot of books and you can not sound it out.
- Encourage the child to point at the words and try to read any words he/she doesn't recognise by saying the individual sounds separately (e.g. *a - m*), then running the sounds together quickly. If the child finds it difficult to say the sounds, say the sounds for them first and then see if they can hear the word.

See inside back cover for other activities.



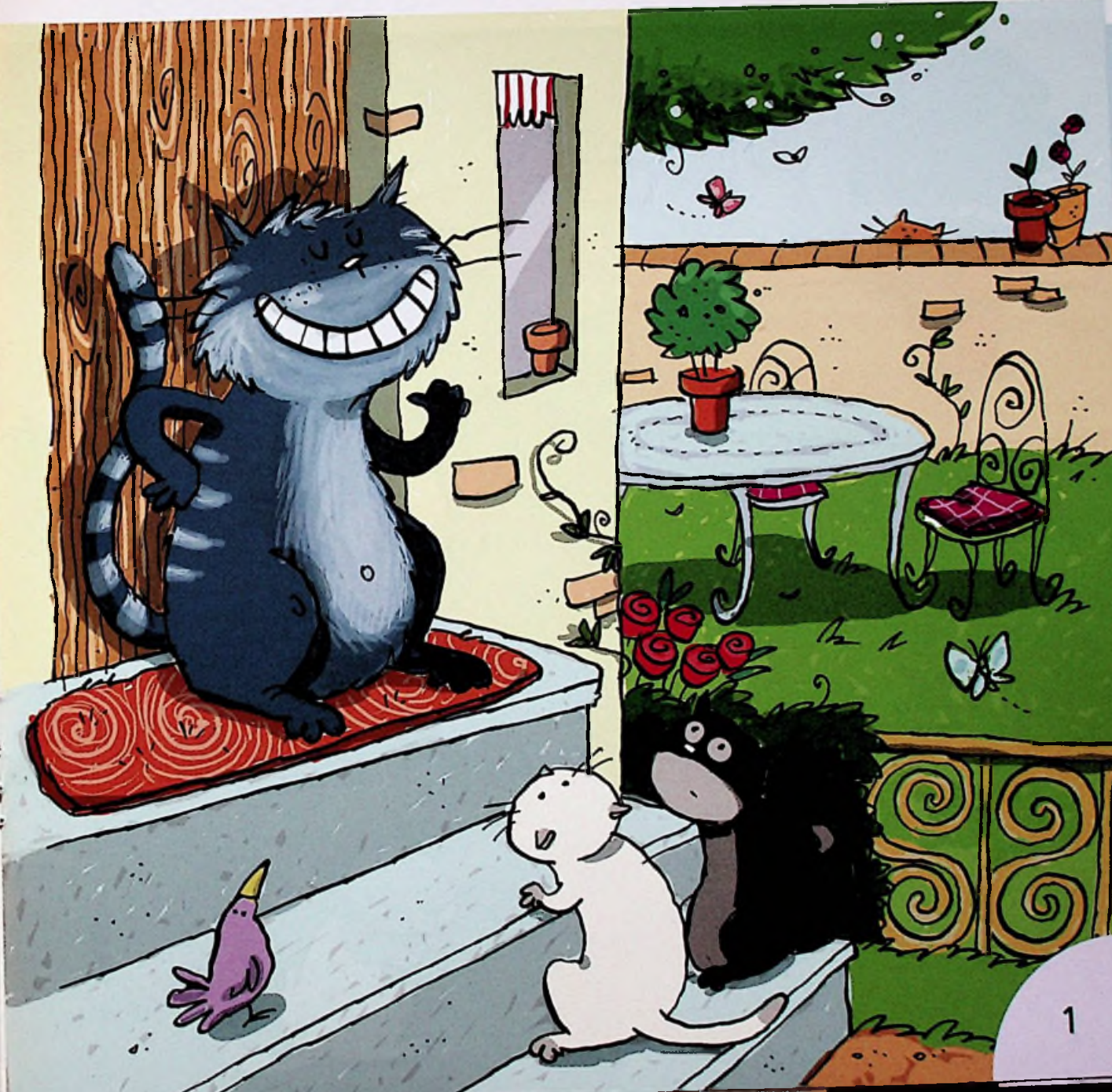
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I am top cat.

Am I top cat?





Am I top cat?



I am! I am!





I am top cat.



Am I top cat?





I am! I am!





Pop!



Am I top cat?





### **Check comprehension**

Ask the child

- Which animal is speaking in the story? (The first cat.)
- What does the first cat do to make sure it is still the top cat? (Climbs on the table and then flies with a balloon.)

### **Check phonics (letter-pattern sounds)**

Ask the child to

- Think of other words that begin with the same sound as *cat* (e.g. *cup, car*).
- Look in the book and find the words that end with the sound *p* (*top, pop*).
- Tell you whether *top* and *pop* sound the same at the beginning or the end. (The end; they rhyme.)
- Think of other words that rhyme with *top* and *pop* (e.g. *mop, hop, shop, flop, chop, stop*).

**Example phonic words:** am top cat pop

**High frequency tricky words** – These words are common but children may find them hard to read at this stage: l



Oxford  
Reading  
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Stage 1+ Songbirds  
Phonics



# Top Cat

Story by Julia Donaldson • Pictures by Joelle Dreidemy  
Series editor Clare Kirtley



## Am I top cat?

Focus Phonics

*m c t p a o*

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