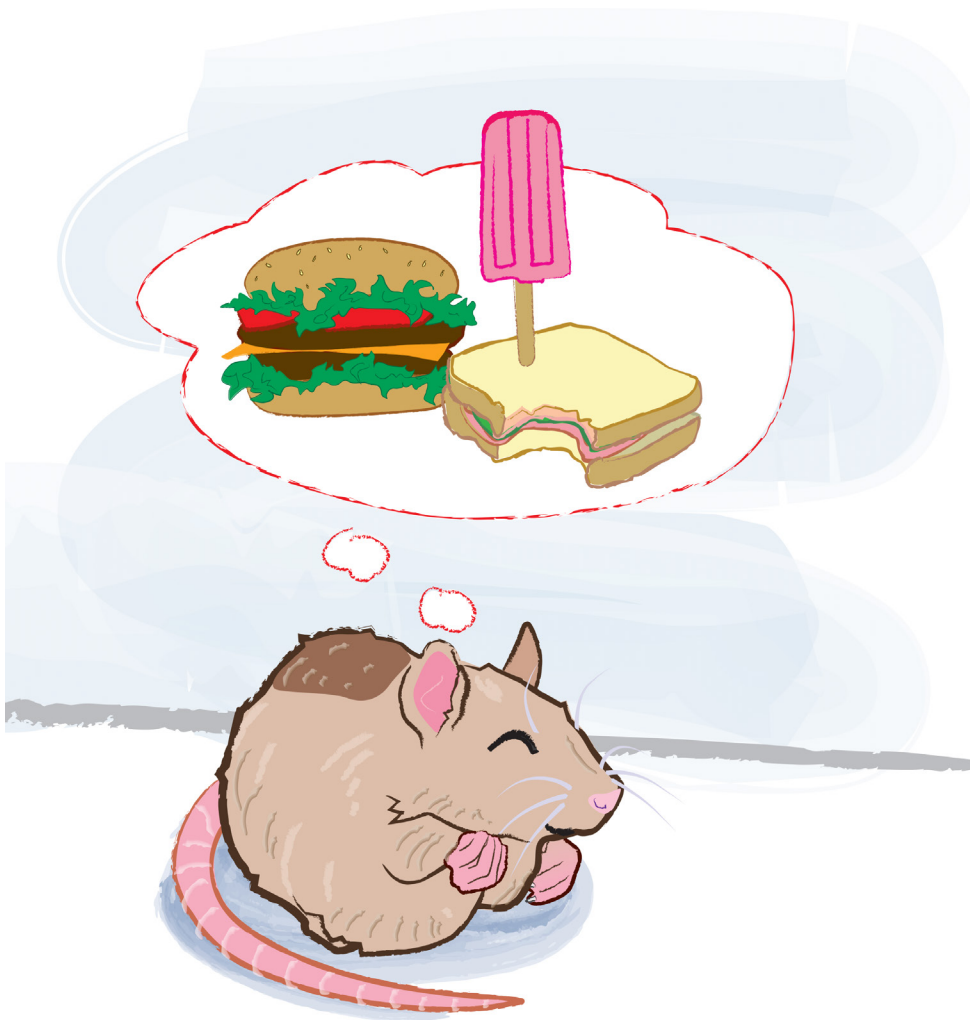


No Food to Be Found

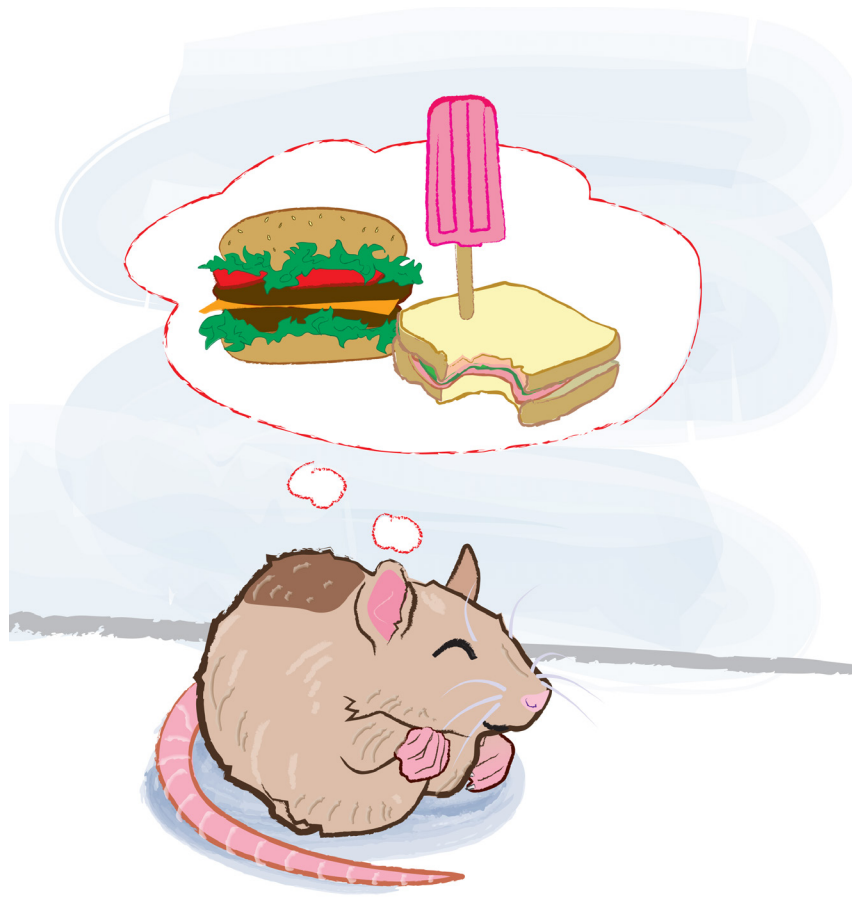
Cycle 13 Decodable Reader



Josh the rat waddled through the alley. He was looking for an open trash can, but could not find even one!



Just last week he had hit the jackpot. The cook from *Soup for You* had left a trash can wide open. Inside, Josh found noodle soup. He and his friend, Chip the alley cat, had gobbled it up.



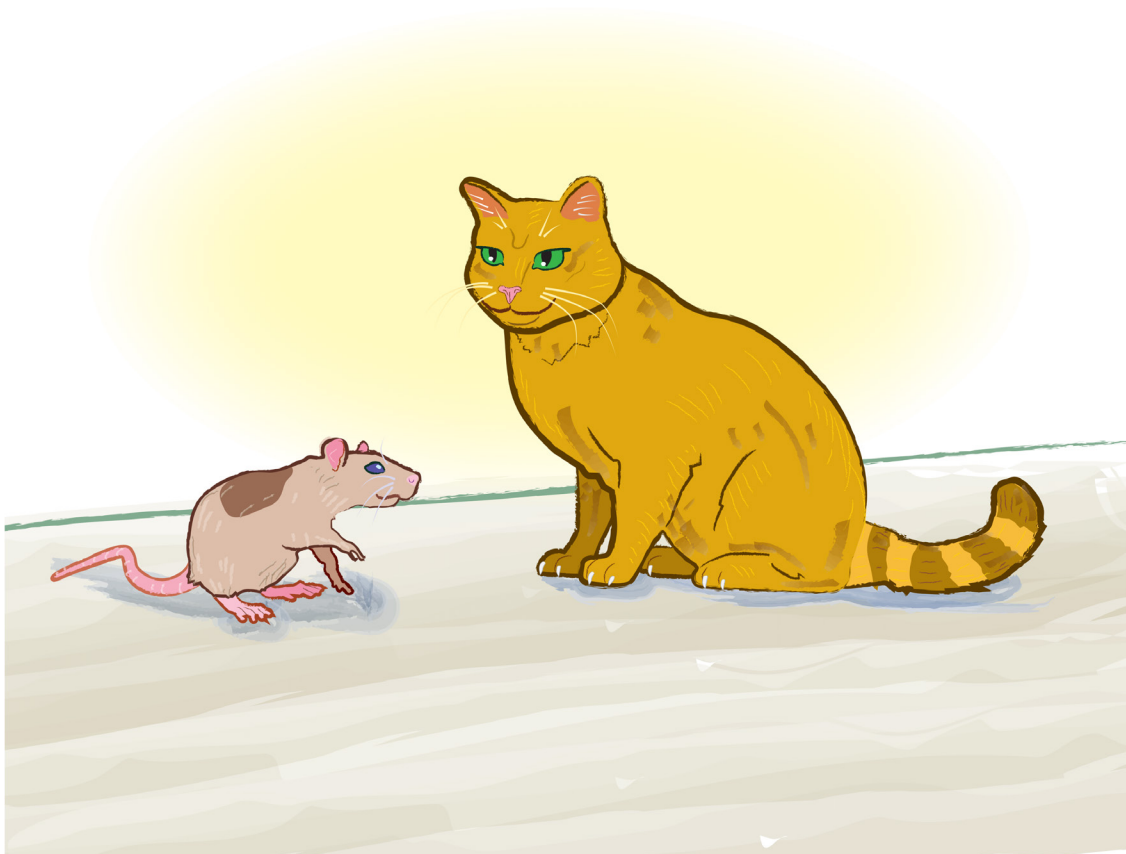
Tonight Josh's tummy gurgled and grumbled. There was no trash or food to be found! He dreamed about nibbling on a hamburger, a sandwich, a popsicle...

He saw one trash can with a tiny opening. He jumped on top of it and tried to wiggle his way into a little opening. But he stumbled, then tumbled from the top of the trash can.

Then Josh saw Chip walking through the middle of the alley. "We've got a problem, friend. There are no open trash cans and no trash. Not even one bottle on the ground!" said Josh.

"I've been struggling, too. I can't seem to find a snack anywhere. I guess the rules are working," said Chip.
"Rules? What rules?" asked Josh.

"Mayor Mack made new rules about cleaning up trash. No open trash cans and no trash on the streets. They've been trying to keep us away! They called us pests!"



Josh was puzzled by this.
"Pests? You've got to be kidding me! I can't handle this! I've got to eat something. And soon!" said Josh. "Don't worry," said Chip. "I've got a plan."