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Belling the Cat

The Mice once called a meeting to decide on a plan to free themselves of their enemy, the Cat. They wanted to find some way of knowing when she was coming, so they would have time to run away. Something had to be done! They lived in such constant fear of her claws and hardly dared to come out of their dens by night or day.

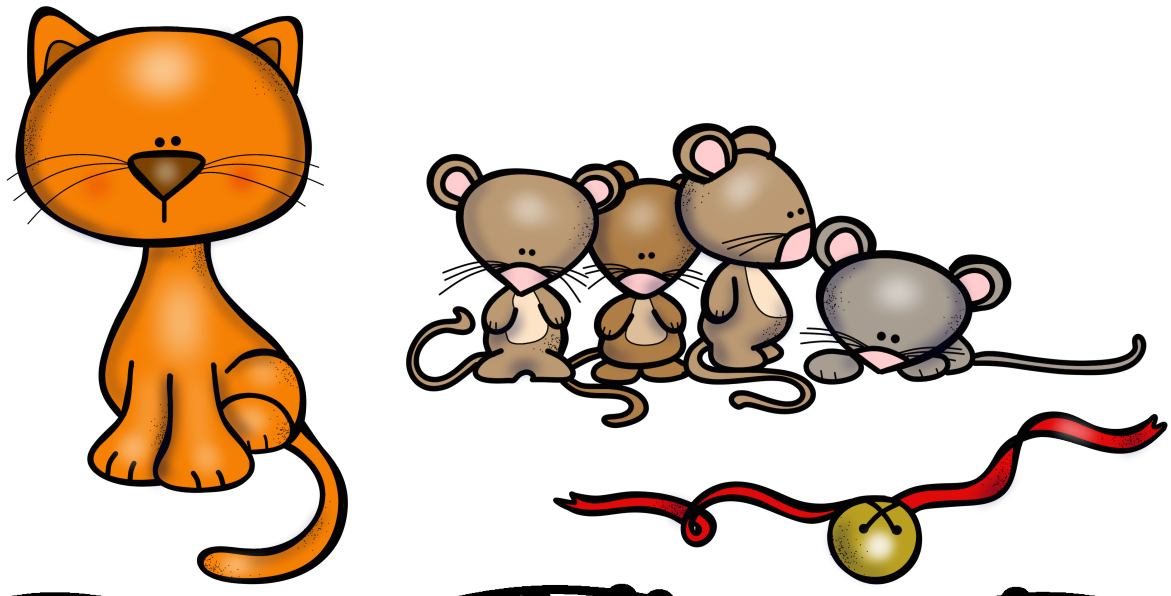
Many plans were discussed, but none of them were good enough. At last, a very young Mouse got up and said:

"I have a plan that seems very simple, but I know it will be successful. All we have to do is to hang a bell about the Cat's neck. When we hear the bell ringing we will know immediately that our enemy is coming."

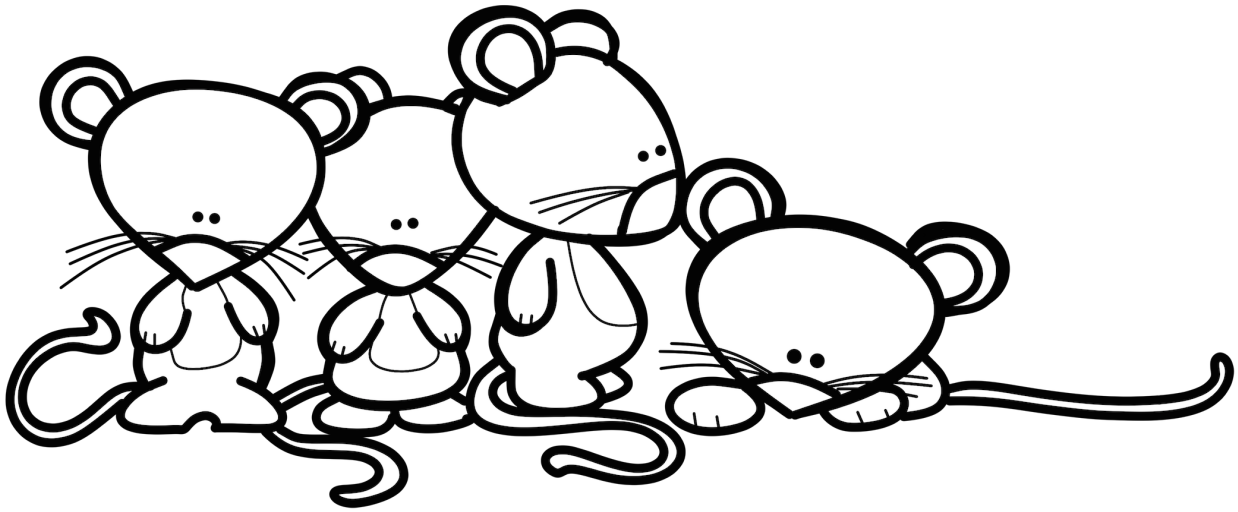
All the Mice were surprised that they had not thought of such a plan before. But in the midst of the rejoicing over their good fortune, an old Mouse rose up and said:

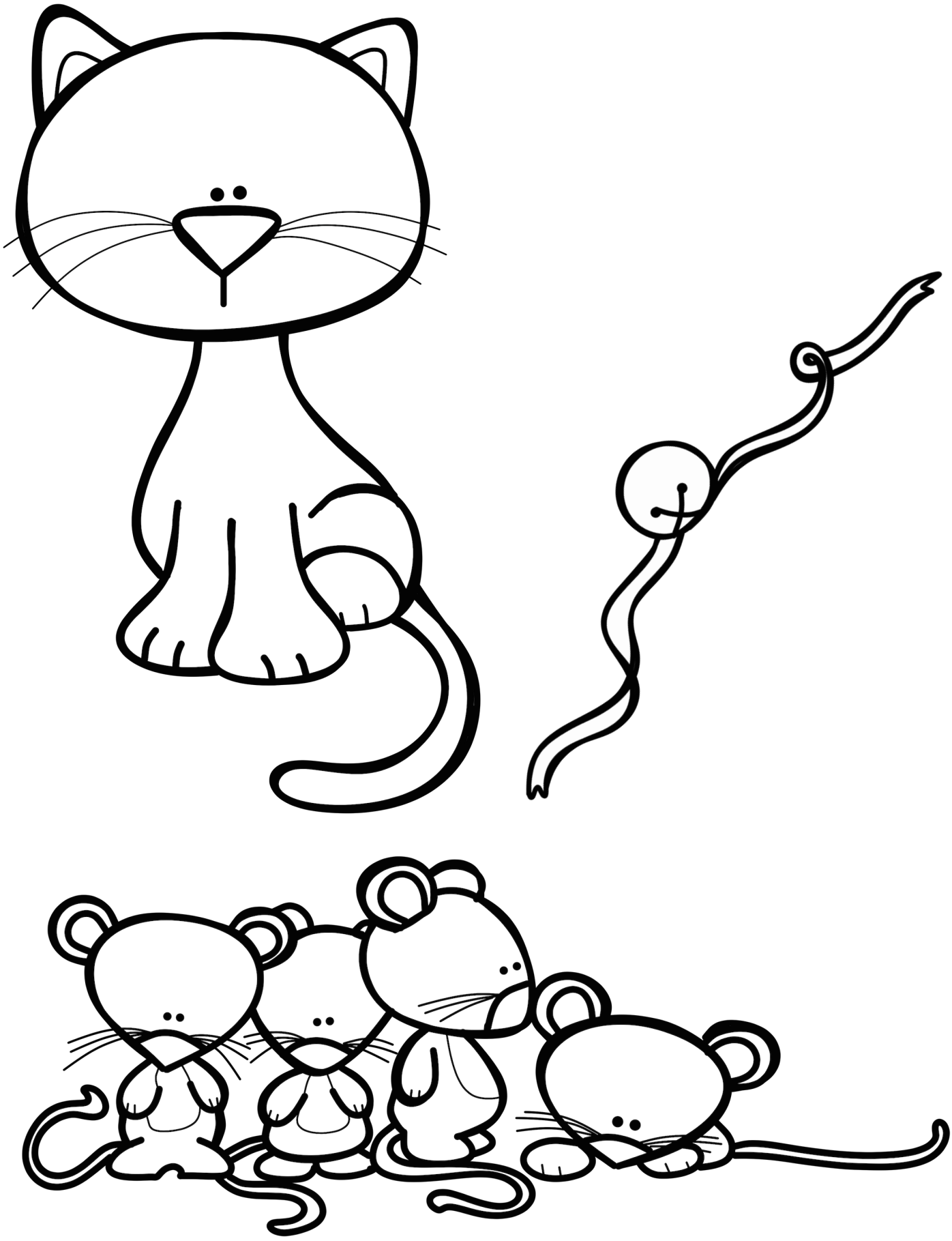
"I will say that the plan of the young Mouse is very good. But let me ask one question: Who will bell the Cat?"

Moral: *It is one thing to say that something should be done, but quite a different matter to do it.*



It is one thing to say that something should be done, but quite a different matter to do it.





Vocabulary

Directions: Choose a vocabulary word from the word bank that matches the definition. Write the vocabulary word in the box. Choose one word, and use it in a sentence.

talked about	celebrating	not a friend
right this minute	had the courage to act	luck

Word Bank:

dared discussed immediately
enemy fortune rejoicing

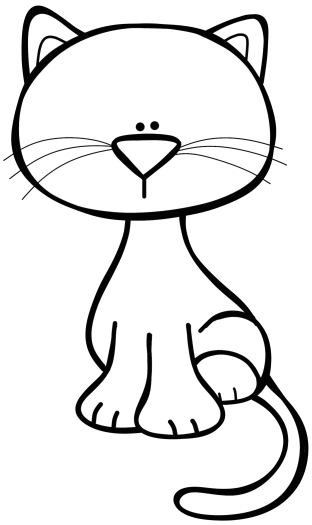
_____

_____

_____

Directions: Summarize the fable on the lines below. The summary should be 5 sentences long and include at least 2 vocabulary words.

Belling the Cat



Storytelling Puppets

Directions: Cut out and laminate the images below. Glue or tape them to craft sticks. Use them to retell the fable.



Cut apart these cards. Shuffle them. Put them in order.

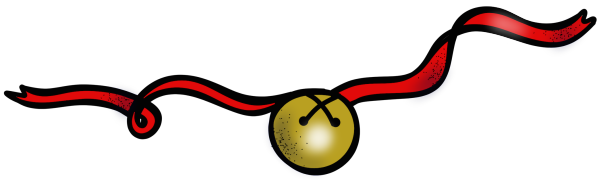
The mice held a meeting. They wanted to figure out how to know when their enemy, the cat, was nearby.



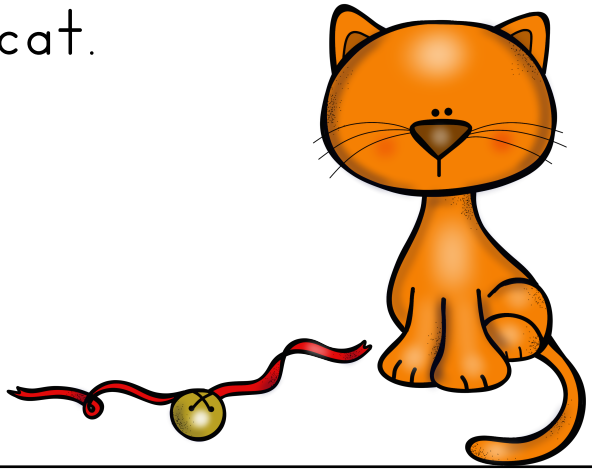
They discussed many plans. Finally a young mouse had a good idea.



The young mouse thought they should tie a bell around the cat's neck so they could hear him coming.



While they were celebrating the good idea, an old mouse asked who would be the one to bell the cat.



Belling the Cat

1. Why problem did the mice have?

2. What was the young mouse's solution to that problem?

3. What concern did the old mouse have?

4. Would you volunteer to bell the cat? Why or why not?

