


## BEFORE READING

- 1 Read the definition of a 'cat burglar'.

### cat burglar

person who goes into buildings from the roof and takes things

-  Discuss with a partner.

a What do you think a 'cat burglar' needs to be good at?

- 2 Look back at the characters on page 8 and 9 and the names of the Chapters on page 3.

a Who do you think is a 'cat burglar' in this story?

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b What do you think the 'cat burglar' wants to take?

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c What building do you think the 'cat burglar' tries to get into?

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d Who do you think helps the 'cat burglar'?

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- 3  Share your ideas with the class.

CHAPTER 1

A strange cat



QUESTION: WHAT IS STRANGE ABOUT THE CAT?

- A It is wearing shoes.
- B It is walking on two legs.
- C It is very different to a normal cat.
- D It is wearing shoes.



1 What was wrong? Philip stopped and looked left, then right. He crossed the road and walked along the path by the city park. He was going home. The sun was bright<sup>1</sup>, the sky was blue, and the grass was green, but Philip felt worried. He looked across the street and saw it for the first time. A cat. A cat looking at him. Was it looking at him? No, it couldn't be.

It was a beautiful cat. Slim<sup>2</sup> and black, with bright<sup>2</sup> purple eyes. Philip walked quickly to the park. It was a nice day, but not for Philip. At the entrance to the park he saw the boys from school.

### Glossary

- **bright<sup>1</sup>**: full of light
- **bright<sup>2</sup>**: not dark
- **slim**: thin

'Oh no...' thought Philip. There were three of them, they played football every day and really liked to kick the ball at Philip. He stopped. He looked back. The cat was behind him! Looking at him with its purple eyes. Philip didn't like it. He walked away without looking and into the biggest boy, Henry.

'S-s-sorry, Henry!' he said quickly and started walking... He didn't look back.

He ran into the park, around the lake, and jumped over the flowers. He stopped behind a tree. Was Henry following him? Was the cat following him? He opened one eye, then the other. Nothing. Then he heard it. A soft purr. The cat!

He wanted to move away, but he didn't. What was it about this cat? It looked at him. Its eyes were very purple. He moved closer and closer, down to the cat. He felt the cat's paw on his face.

Time stopped. Purple eyes looked into Philip's eyes. He couldn't look away. The eyes were bigger and bigger and he was smaller and smaller. The cat... where was the cat? He looked up and saw a beautiful girl with purple eyes. She was smiling. Why was she smiling?

He looked down at his feet... where were his feet? He saw cat's paws! Philip was a cat! He stroked his head. Philip hissed at her.

'Poor little cat, don't worry, everything is purrrrfect'. Thank you and bye-bye.

- **following:** moving behind (someone)
- **hissed:** made an angry sound
- **paw:** cat's foot
- **purr:** sound a cat makes when it is happy

- **purrrrfect:** purr + perfect (not a real word)
- **smiling:** looking happy
- **stroked:** touched
- **What was it about this cat?:** What was strange about this cat?