



3 Written by Linda Rae Liss
Illustrations by Genn Lotysh



“Phew, everything fits!” says Kim as she finishes packing her bag for summer camp. It was hard to pick which things to bring. She is looking forward to seeing all her friends and snapping photos of their projects to help animals in the wild. “If only I could bring Whiskers with me,” she whispers to herself.



Decodable Word Chart

Long /e/ (ee)	Short /i/	Short /e/	Short /a/		Short /u/	Short /o/	Bossy R
							
seeing	fits	help	packing	catches	running	stop	her
flees	Kim	next	bag	lands	stuff	shocked	hard
deep	pick	pet	camp	snaps	shut		turns
keeps	which	get	snapping	tapping	thumping		whirls
	whiff	tells	grab	whacking	jumps		dart
	trip	them	slacks	yanks	such		for
	sitting		catch	back			
	grip		cat				



When Kim turns around to grab some slacks, a mouse flees into her packed bag. What is the mouse running from? The mouse snuggles deep under Kim's packed stuff. She didn't catch a whiff of the mouse.



Next, Whiskers, Kim's pet cat, whirls by. Whiskers catches a whiff of the mouse in the bag and lands in the packed bag. It all happened out of Kim's sight so she snaps shut her luggage. Will Kim get a whiff of the two phantoms hidden deep inside before she departs?



Philamena asks, "What camp are you going to?"
Kim answers, "Camp Philozoic."

Phillip says, "I am going there, too. Philozoic is a Greek word for fond of animals."

Kim adds, "I think I should call Whiskers a Phantom Cat because I really thought there was a ghost in my luggage. Most of all, I wonder if the camp people will be fond of cats, too."



The boy says, "Look mom, there goes a mouse."

The mom says, "Hi, I'm Philamena and this is my son, Phillip."

Kim tells them her name, too.

Phillip asks Kim, "Is that your cat?"

Kim responds, "Yes, this is Whiskers. I did not plan for him to come with me to camp."



Kim settles in for the long trip to summer camp. Sitting across from her is a boy and his mom. All of a sudden, Kim hears tapping. She wonders where the tapping is coming from.



The tapping does not stop “WHACK, THUMP!” Whether or not the other travelers hear it, Kim is alarmed. She wonders what can be tapping, whacking, and thumping. Kim thinks about phantoms or ghosts. She decides to open her luggage and find out what is going on.



Everyone is shocked when a mouse jumps out of the opened luggage. Right behind the mouse is Whiskers, Kim’s cat. Before Whiskers can dart after the mouse, Kim yanks him back into her lap and keeps a tight grip.

“Whiskers, you gave me such a fright,” whispers Kim.