

# Eleanor Farjeon

## 1881~1965



Growing up in a family that loved art, Eleanor Farjeon described herself as a dreamy child. She was homeschooled and spent much of her time in the attic, surrounded by books. Her father wrote novels and encouraged her to begin writing at age five. He died when she was twenty-two years old, so she had to use her writing to make money. Miss Farjeon developed into a talented author who wrote an operetta, a children's play, and many children's stories and poems that we still read today. Best known for her children's books, she won top awards. Every year a special award is presented by the Children's Book Circle to remember and honor this famous poet.

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Read about Eleanor Farjeon. Narrate what you learned about her.

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“Love has no uttermost,  
as the stars have no number  
and the sea no rest.”



In your best handwriting, copy Eleanor Farjeon's famous quote.



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# “Books”

by Eleanor Farjeon

What worlds of wonder are our books!  
As one opens them and looks,  
New ideas and people rise  
In our fancies and our eyes.

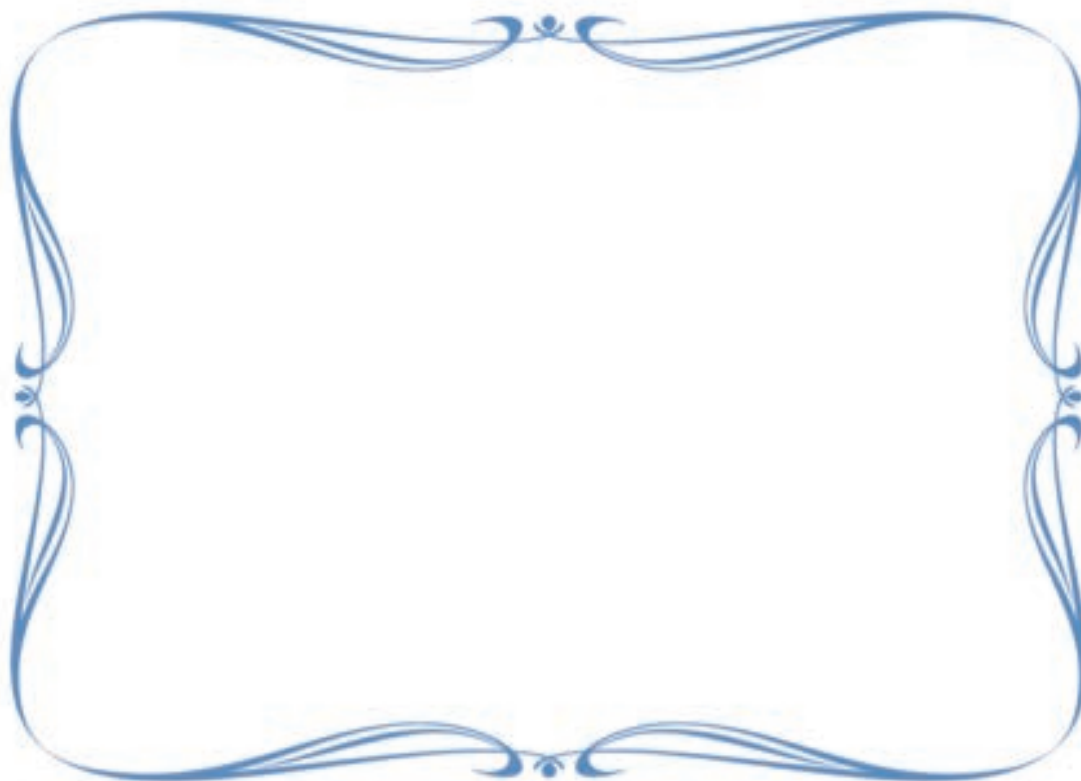
The room we sit in melts away,  
And we find ourselves at play  
With someone who, before the end,  
May become our chosen friend.

Or we sail along the page  
To some other land or age.  
Here's our body in the chair,  
But our mind is over *there*.

Each book is a magic box  
Which with a touch a child unlocks.  
In between their outside covers  
Books hold all things for their lovers.



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- Read the poem out loud two times.
  - What did you imagine as you read the poem?
  - In the box and on the lines below, illustrate and write what you imagined.



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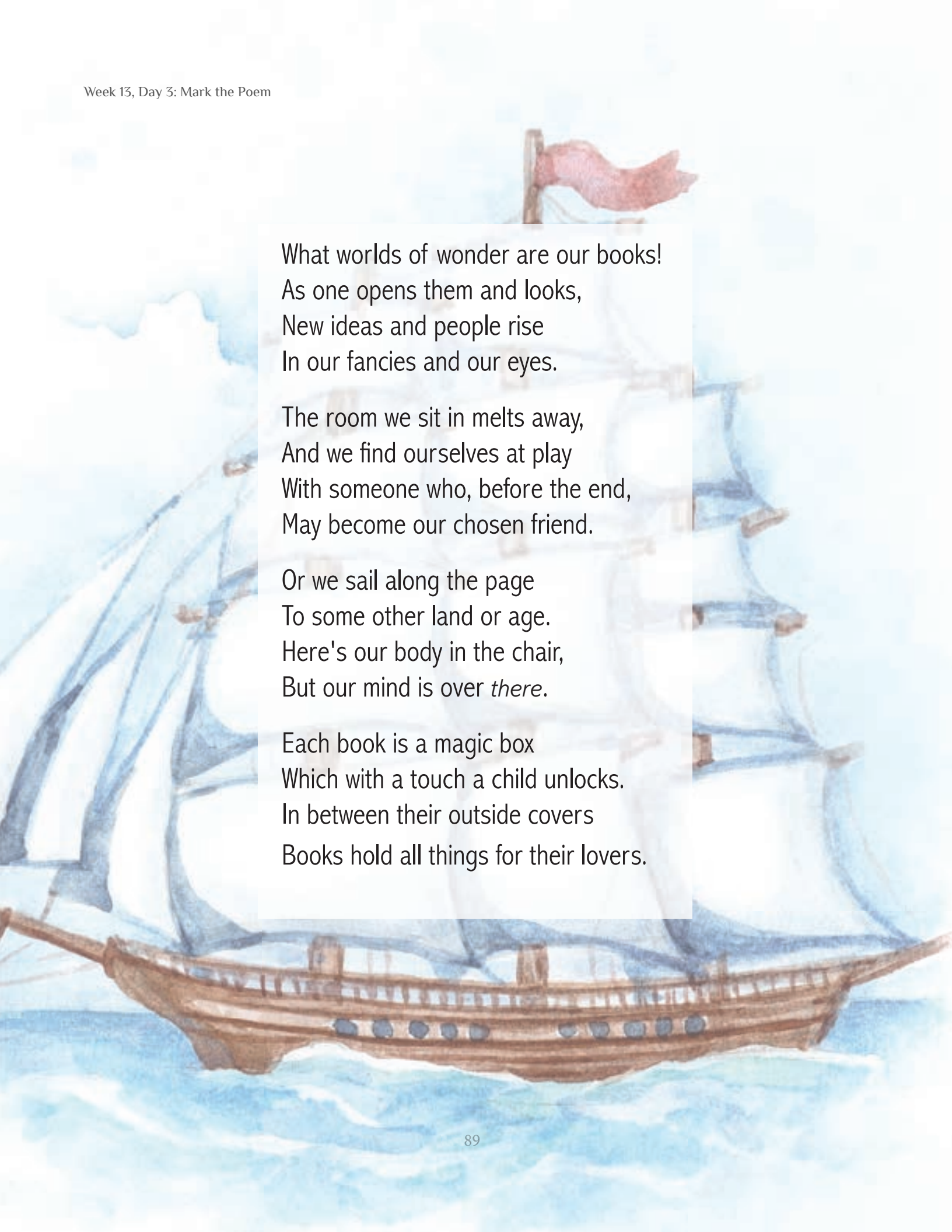
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Eleanor Farjeon's poem "Books" is considered **descriptive poetry**. She uses metaphors to help us imagine and understand books in new and exciting ways. Read the first line in the poem. What punctuation mark do you see at the end? We call this an **exclamation point** because the author is exclaiming or telling something with excitement!

- 🌀 How many stanzas are in the poem? Number the stanzas.
- 🌀 How many lines are in each stanza? Number the lines in the first stanza.
- 🌀 Read the poem out loud and underline the rhyming words.
- 🌀 Can you see and hear a pattern in each stanza? What is the rhyme scheme?
- 🌀 Draw a box around the exclamation point at the end of the first line.
- 🌀 How does Miss Farjeon feel about books? How do you know?
- 🌀 Read the first line out loud in the way you think the poet would say it.
- 🌀 Is there anything else you notice about the poem that's interesting? Mark it on the poem.
- 🌀 Read the poem again and circle any words you don't know.
- 🌀 Write them below. Look up the meanings and write them beside the words.

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Many poets use **metaphors** to compare two things. Unlike similes, metaphors don't use the words *like* or *as*. They compare by saying something *is* something else: Our car *is an oven*! This means our car is very hot inside. Metaphors help us understand what's being described.



- 👂 Read the first line of the poem out loud. Can you hear the metaphor?
- 👂 Write it below, then write what books are being compared to.
- 👂 Read the entire poem aloud to discover the other metaphor.
- 👂 Write it below, and then write the two things that are being compared.



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What worlds of wonder are our books!  
As one opens them and looks,  
New ideas and people rise  
In our fancies and our eyes.

Each book is a magic box  
Which with a touch a child unlocks.  
In between their outside covers  
Books hold all things for their lovers.

- ...
- How are books like a magic box? What treasures do you find when you look inside their covers?
  - Write your answers below.
- ...

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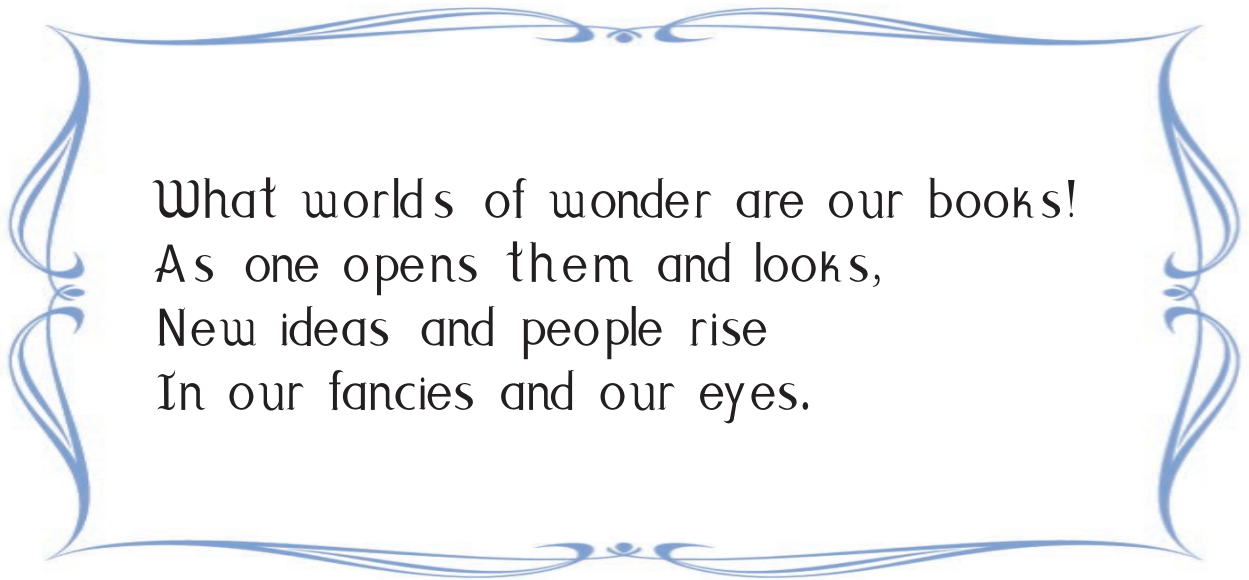
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What worlds of wonder are our books!  
As one opens them and looks,  
New ideas and people rise  
In our fancies and our eyes.



- 🌀 Read the first stanza of “Books” out loud and think about what it means.
- 🌀 Try to interpret, or understand, what the stanza is telling you about books.
- 🌀 Write down your thoughts below.



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- ∞ What wonders are found when we open our books and look inside?
- ∞ Describe in your own words what the poem tells us about books.



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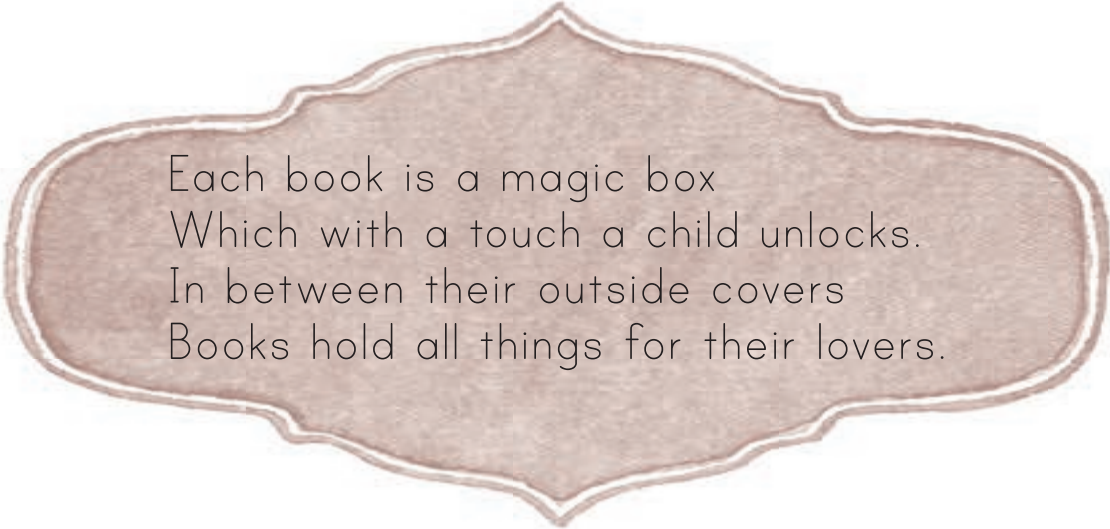
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Copy the stanza below in your best handwriting.



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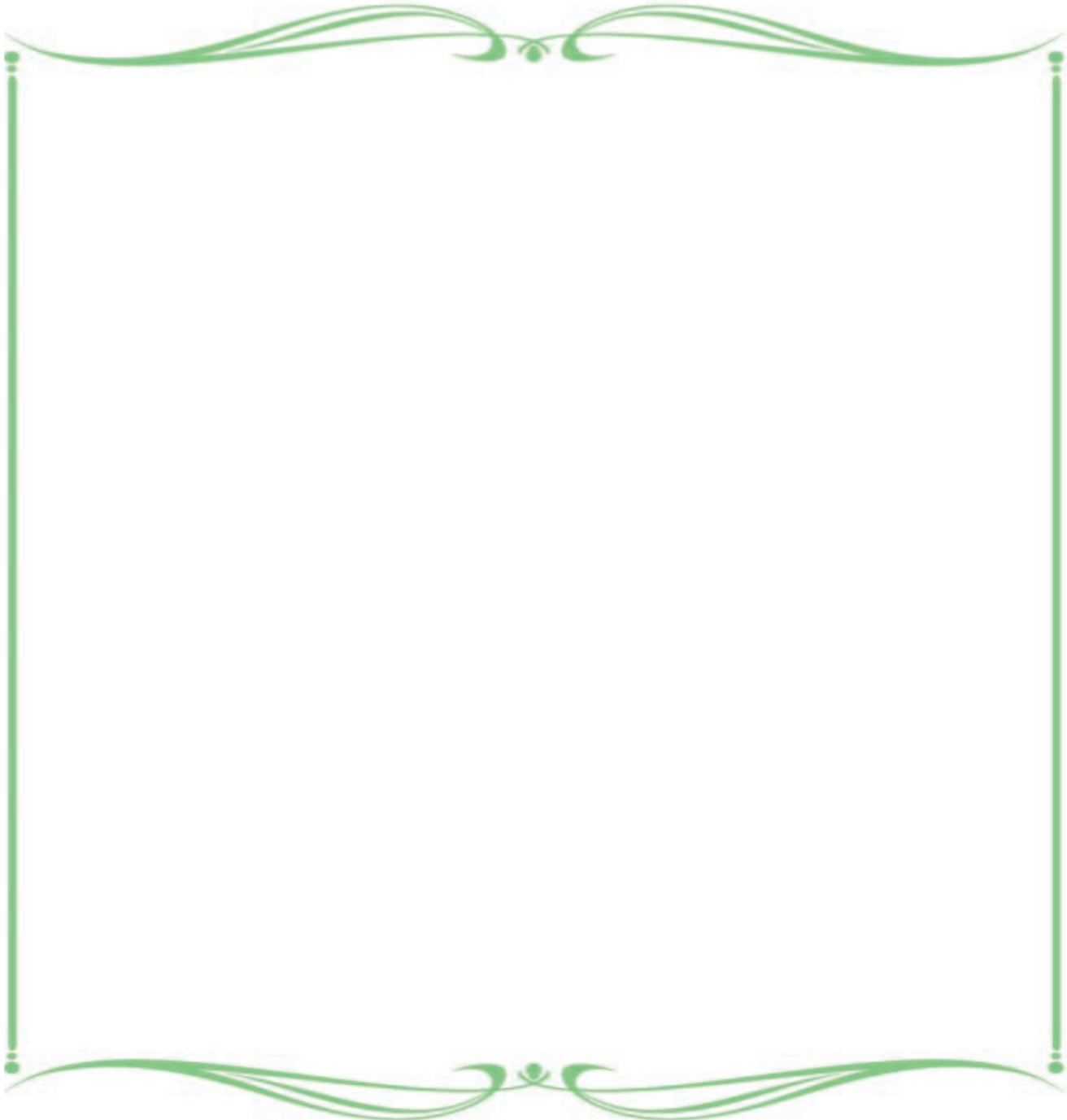
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- ☞ Choose how you'd like to express your learning of "Books."
- ☞ You can draw a picture of the poem, celebrate it at a poetry tea time, recite it at a family gathering, or write it from dictation.
- ☞ In the box below, either write down or draw what you did to celebrate the poem.





# “Cat!”

by Eleanor Farjeon

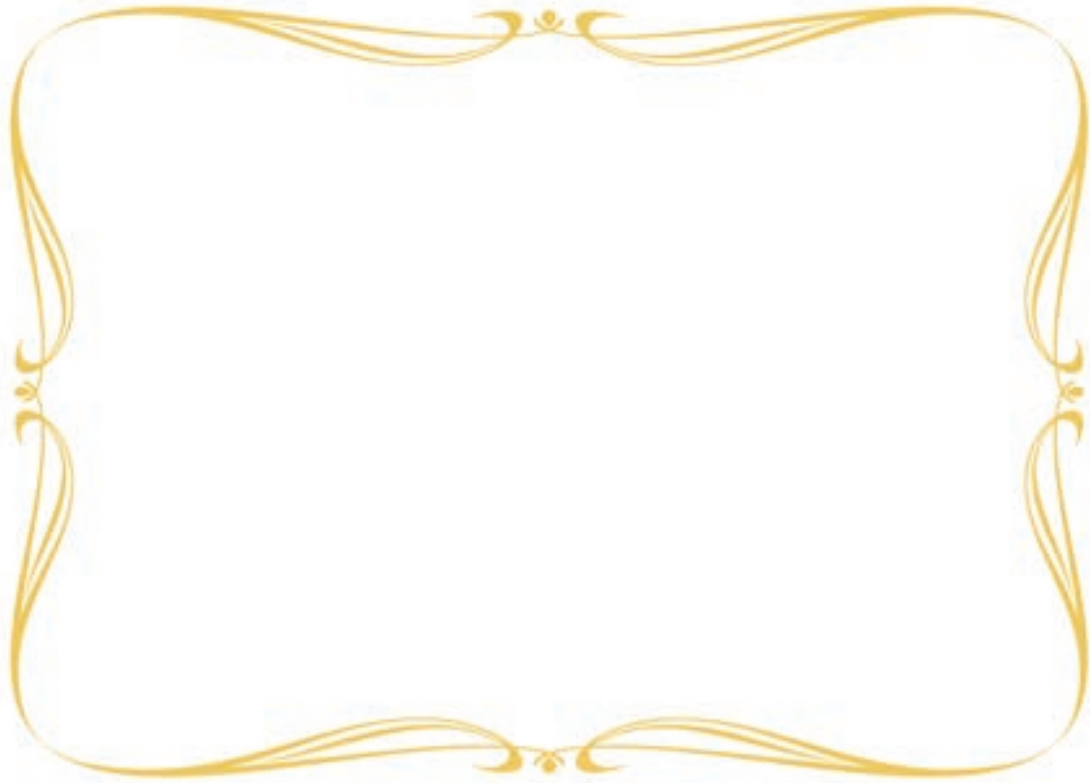


Cat!  
Scat!  
Atter her, atter her,  
Sleeky flatterer,  
Spitfire chatterer,  
Scatter her, scatter her  
Off her mat!  
Wuff!  
Wuff!  
Treat her rough!  
Git her, git her,  
Whiskery spitter!  
Catch her, catch her,  
Green-eyed scratcher!  
Slathery  
Slithery  
Hisser,  
Don't miss her!

Run till you're dithery,  
Hithery  
Thithery!  
Pfitts! pfitts!  
How she spits!  
Spitch! spatch!  
Can't she scratch!

Scratching the bark  
Of the sycamore-tree,  
She's reached her ark  
And's hissing at me  
Pfitts! pfitts!  
Wuff! wuff!  
Scat,  
Cat!  
That's  
That!

- 
- 👉 Read the poem out loud two times.
  - 👉 What did you imagine as you read the poem?
  - 👉 In the box and on the lines below, illustrate and write what you imagined.
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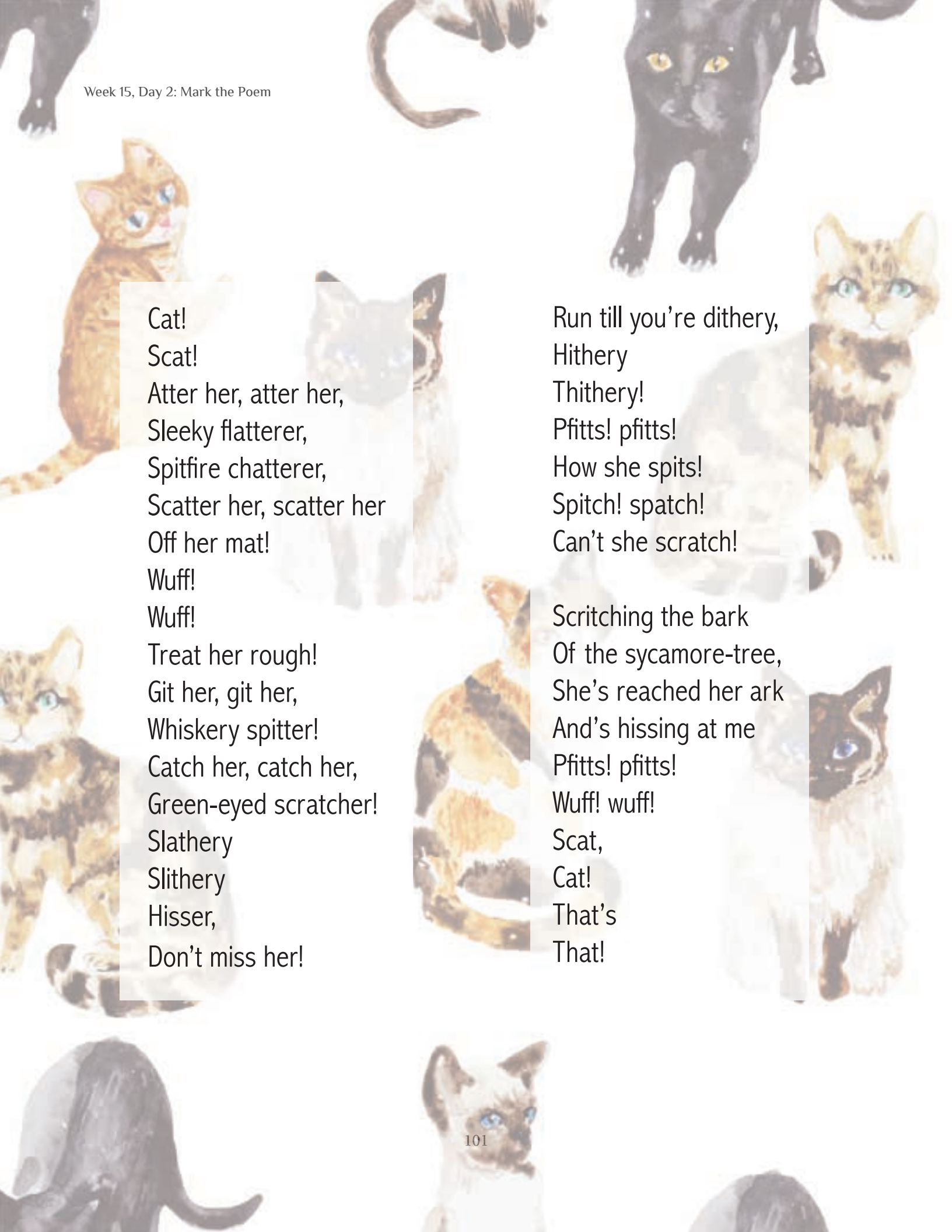
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Spitfire chatterer,  
Scatter her, scatter her  
Off her mat!  
Wuff!  
Wuff!  
Treat her rough!  
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Whiskery spitter!  
Catch her, catch her,  
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Scratching the bark  
Of the sycamore-tree,  
She's reached her ark  
And's hissing at me  
Pfitts! pfitts!  
Wuff! wuff!  
Scat,  
Cat!  
That's  
That!

“Cat!” begins the same way as the last poem we studied. Do you remember how it began? Read the first line of “Cat!” What end mark do you recognize? Do you see it anywhere else in the poem? How does Eleanor Farjeon want you to feel as you read about the cat? Do you notice that the poem has only two stanzas? What’s unusual about some of the lines? They are only one word long!

- 👉 Number the stanzas in the poem. Number the lines in the stanzas.
- 👉 Read the poem out loud and underline the rhyming words.
- 👉 Can you see and hear a pattern in each stanza? What is the rhyme scheme?
- 👉 Draw a box around each exclamation point.
- 👉 Is there anything else you notice about the poem that’s interesting? Mark it on the poem.
- 👉 Read the poem again and circle any words you don’t know.
- 👉 Write the words below. Look up the meanings and write them beside the words.

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Eleanor Farjeon uses **onomatopoeia**—words that sound like the noises they make: *Crash! Plop! Hiss!* Can you find words that tell the sound the dog makes? The dog makes the sound *wuff*. What about the sound the cat makes? *Pfitts*, *spitch*, *spatch*, and *hiss* are sounds the cat makes. Miss Farjeon chose interesting words to make this a fun poem to read and imagine. You already know that she uses a lot of exclamation points in "Cat!" Sentences that express excitement and end in an exclamation point are called **exclamatory sentences**.

- 🌀 Read "Cat!" aloud and notice all the exclamation points. Try to read the lines the way Miss Farjeon wants you to experience them—with excitement!
- 🌀 Look for the exclamatory sentences in the poem and write them below.
- 🌀 Also write all the onomatopoeias you find.

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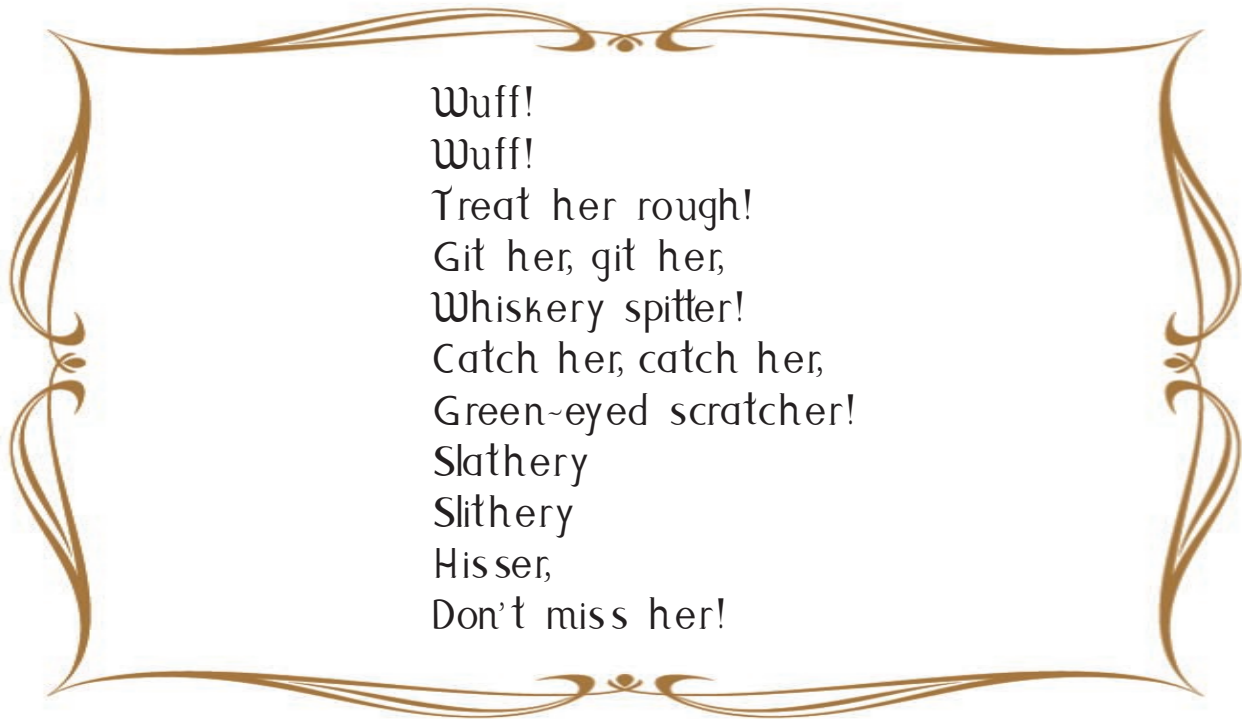
Describe in your own words what the cat is like and what she's doing in the poem.

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- ...
- ☞ Read these lines from the poem out loud and imagine the scene in your mind.
  - ☞ Try to interpret, or understand, what is happening.
  - ☞ Write your thoughts below.
- ...

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- 🐾 Look back at the poem and read it aloud again.
  - 🐾 Who are the two characters in the poem?
  - 🐾 What is the narrator telling the dog to do?
  - 🐾 What happens to the cat at the end of the poem?
  - 🐾 Write your answers below.
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