

Words Are CATEGORICAL



To Root,  
to Toot,



to Parachute

What Is a Verb?

by Brian P. Cleary

illustrated by Jenya Prosmitsky

To Root,  
to Toot,  
to Parachute



What Is a Verb?




To Mary Kate, Jack, and Colin—  
three “action” kids —B.P.C.

To my sister, Margarita  
—J.P.

**Verb:** A word  
that shows  
action or being.





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Whether  
you **Scale**  
a wall  
or a fish,



**Make**  
a design  
on a  
cup or a dish,



Take  
out the  
garbage,

or **sharpen** your  
knife—



Verbs are a part  
of your everyday life



To root,  
to  
toot,



to  
parachute,



To play the  
flutophone or  
flute,



To dare,  
defend,



descend,  
disturb—



If it's an action,  
it's a Verb!



Verbs are words like **Sing**  
and **dance**,



**Pray** or **practice**,



**preach** or **prance**,





Toss and tumble, jump

and jam,



Whine and whisper,



sleep and slam.



So are **h**oller, **h**elp,  
and **h**old,



**W**hack and **s**tack and **p**ack  
and **f**old,



Fix and  
finish,



load and lift,



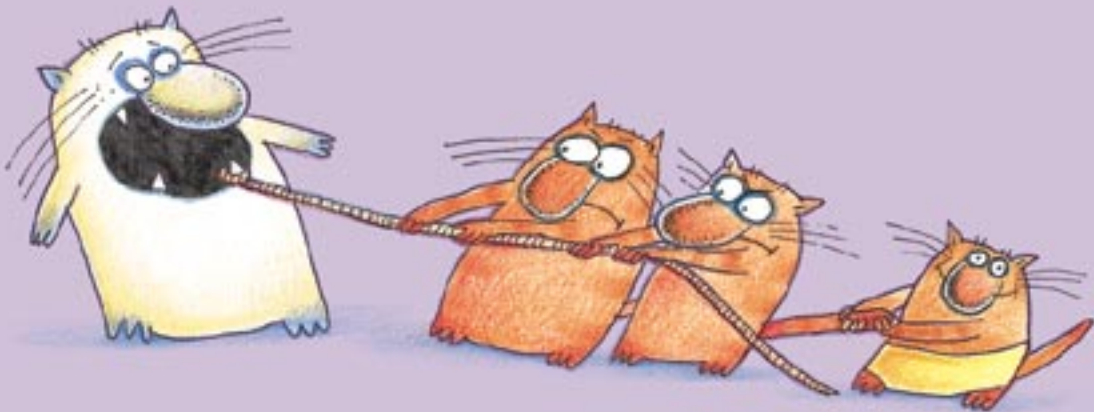
Hurry, Scurry,  
shake, and sift.





So **take** a  
present,

Send your  
thanks,



Pull a tooth,  
or **pull** some pranks,





**Blow**  
a bubble,

**Sew** a  
sleeve,



You'll use a **Verb** for each of these.





A Verb can take a form  
of "be,"

Like you **are** tall,  
or I **am** free,



That **is** fun,



It's **been**  
great,



**Were** you the one  
who **was** so late?





Punt or pass or shoot or  
Score,



swim or paddle,

pitch

or

pour,





Jog  
or  
juggle,



jig or leap,



Verbs can **tire**  
you out a heap.

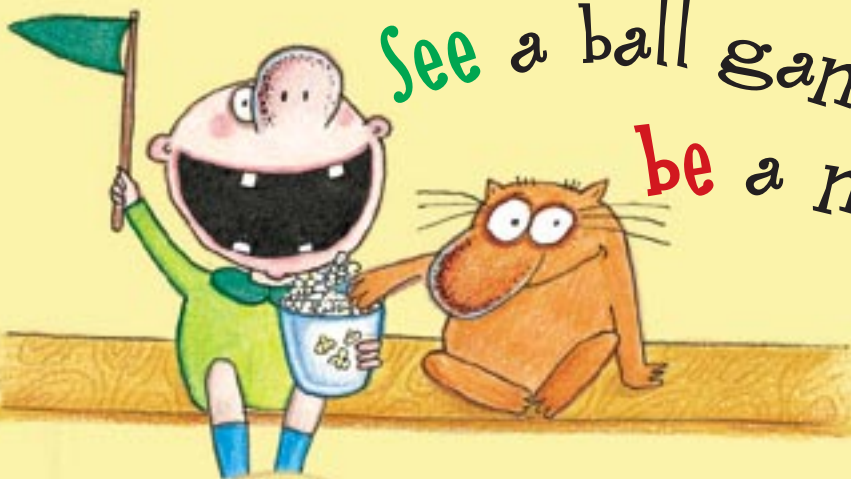


You can **crawl** or **fall**

or **pet**  
your pooch,



See a ball game,  
be a mooch,



Jump and slump



and  
play it cool,



Hunt  
and hike



So **pick** and **fiddle**, strum  
and **stroke**,

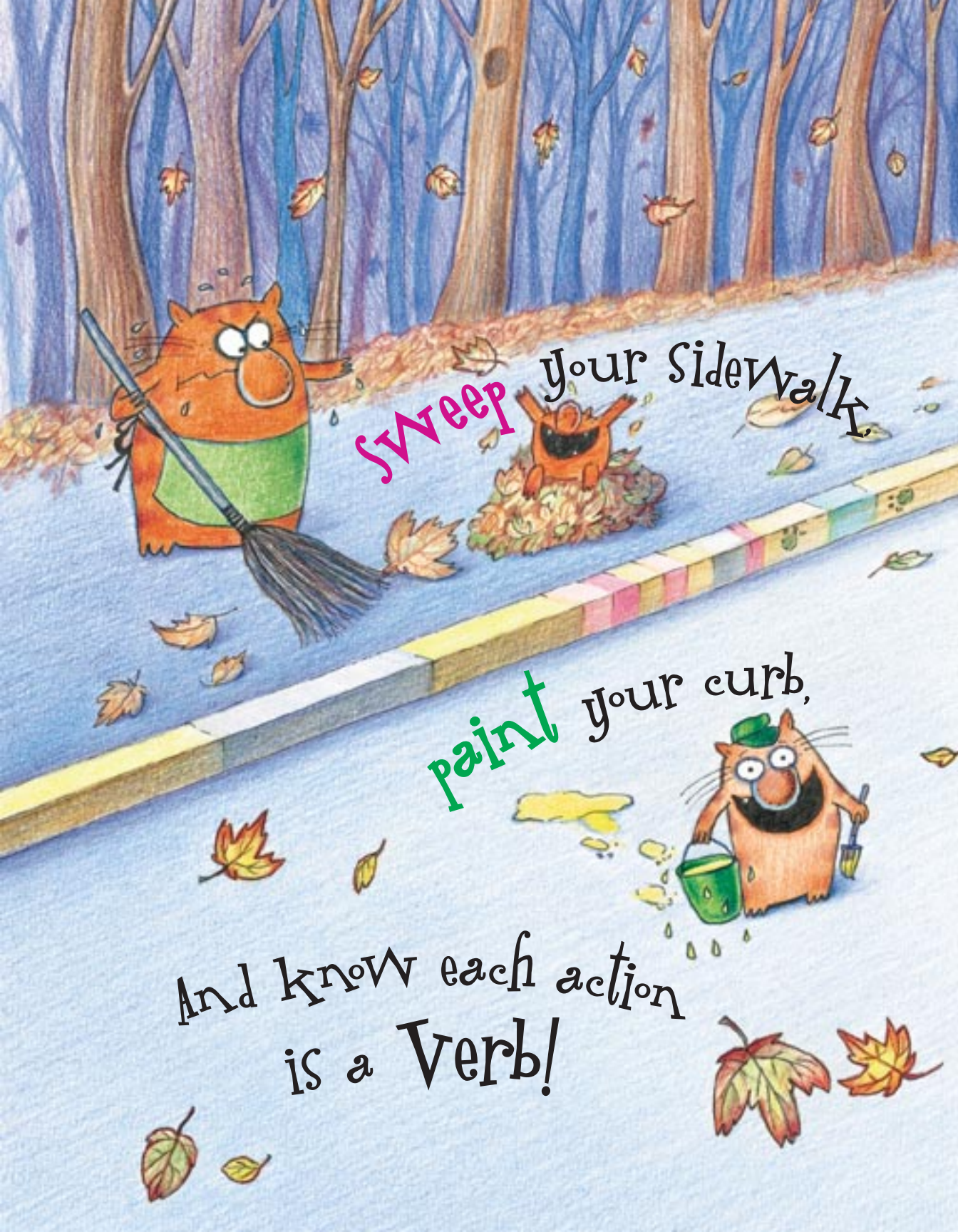


**Tease** and **teeter**,



**Sob** and **soak**,





**Sweep** your sidewalk,

**paint** your curb,

And know each action  
is a **Verb!**

Have and has belong here too,

Like

"I have

green eyes,



She  
has  
blue."





Or "Mindy **has** a  
mini mutt."

These **Verbs** can tell us  
who's got what!





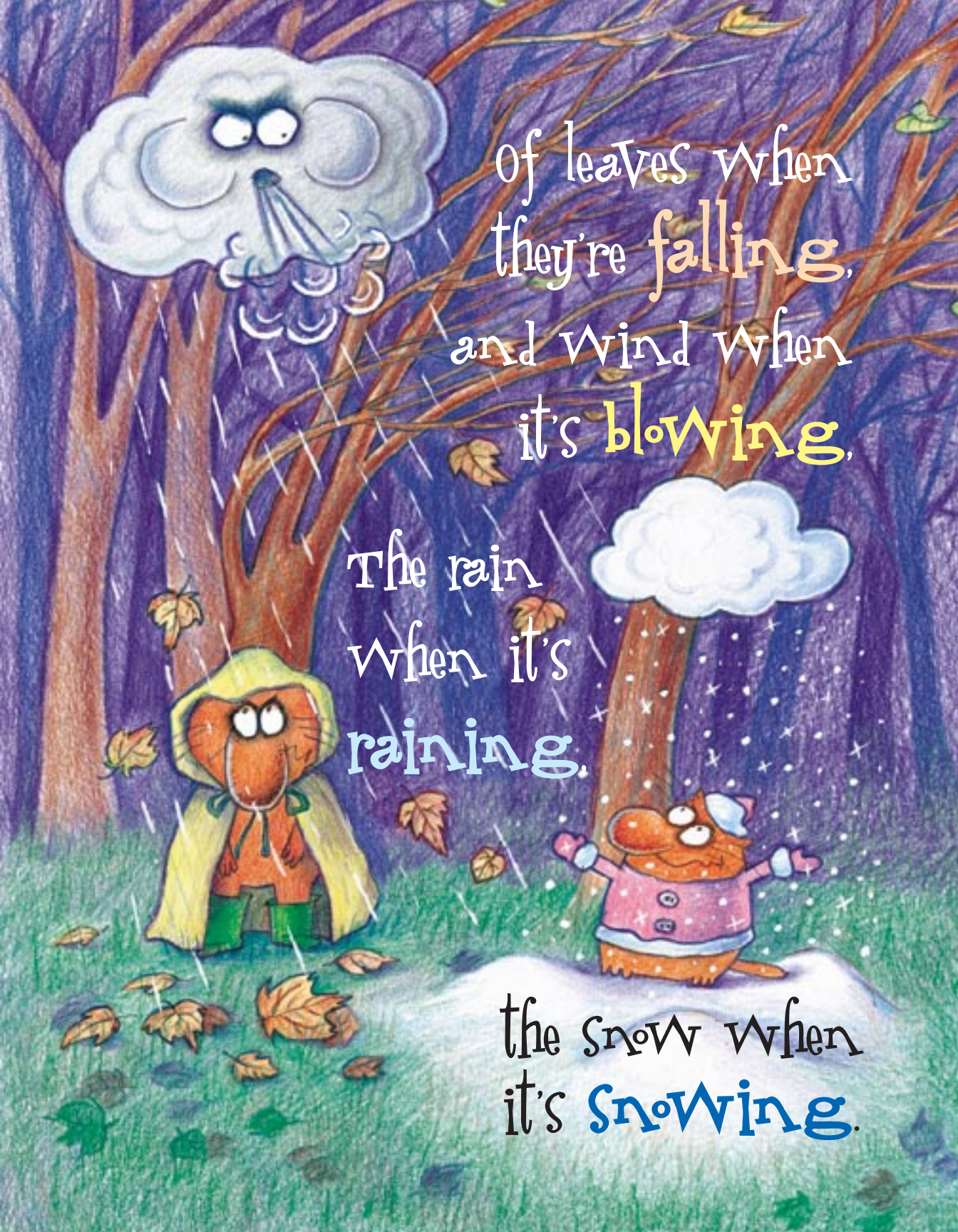
Verbs tell of ships  
**cruising,**

dogs  
**snoozing,** slime **oozing,**

They tell  
of spies  
**spying,**

guys **trying** and **losing,**





of leaves when  
they're falling,  
and wind when  
it's blowing,

The rain  
when it's  
raining.

the snow when  
it's snowing.

They tell us of dogs  
that are **barking** or **sleeping**,



of cars that are **racing**,  
or merely **beep-beeping**,



Of planes that  
are **flying**,



and trains **choo-choo-chooing**,

Aunt Edna

**"oh-hi-ing,"**

and Mom

**"Toodle-ooing"—**



of corn that is popping,



and singers doo-wopping,



of folks that  
are sweeping,



and afterwards, mopping,



So, whether it's  
dangerous,  
dull, or superb,

Each sentence, you see,  
simply must have a

**Verb!**

VERB  
POWER

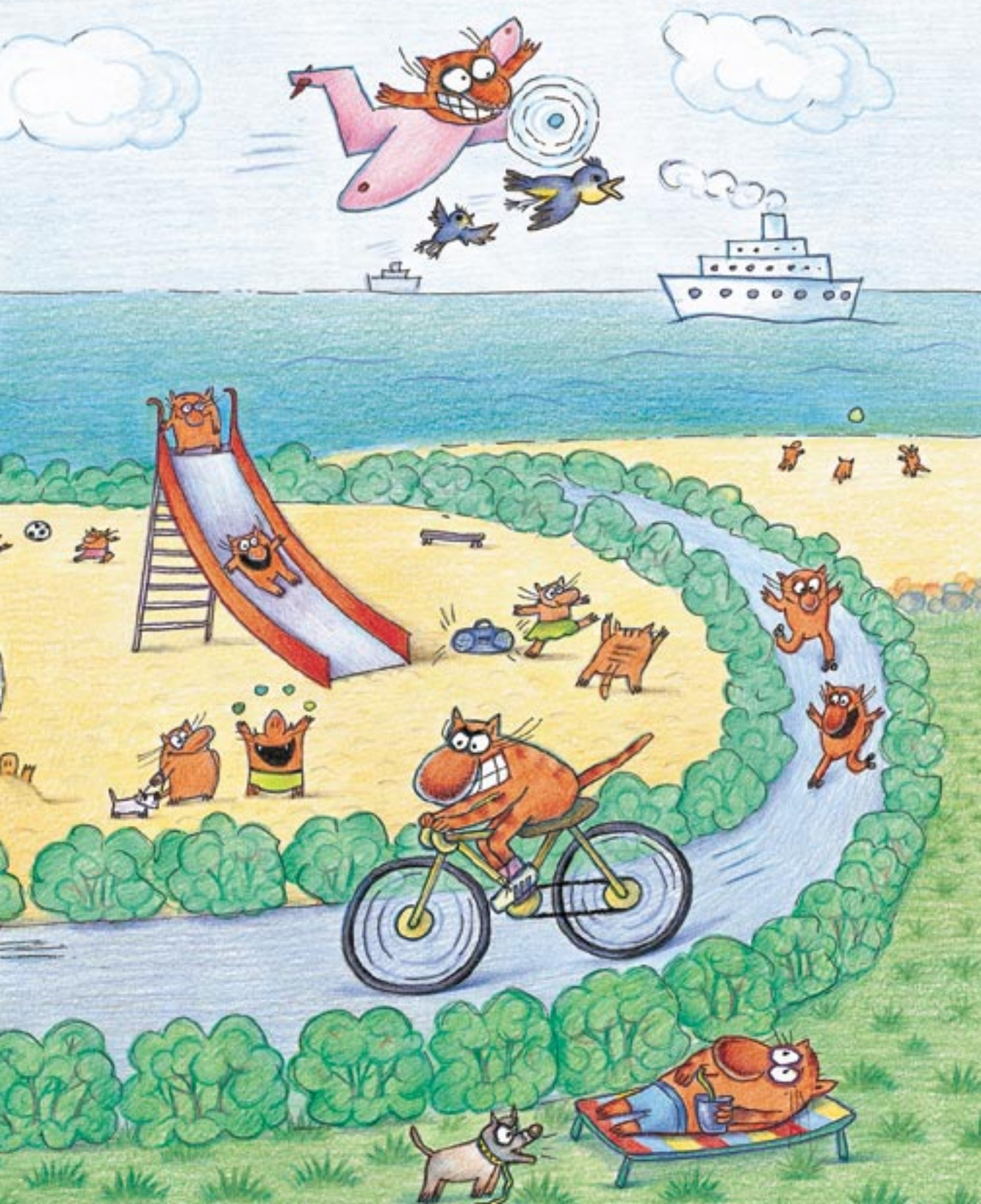


VERBS  
ARE COOL



So, what is a **Verb**?  
Do you know?







## ABOUT THE AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

**BRIAN P. CLEARY** is the author of several other picture books, including A Mink, a Fink, a Skating Rink: What Is a Noun? and Hairy, Scary, Ordinary: What Is an Adjective? He lives in Cleveland, Ohio.

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