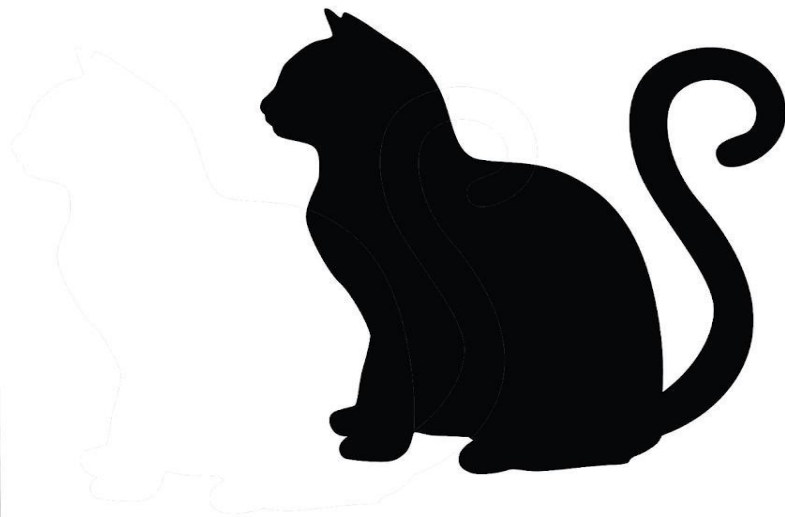
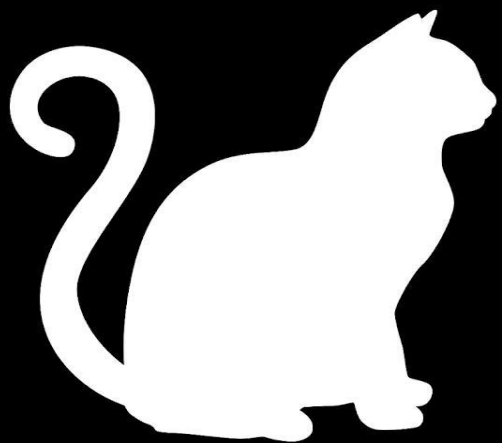
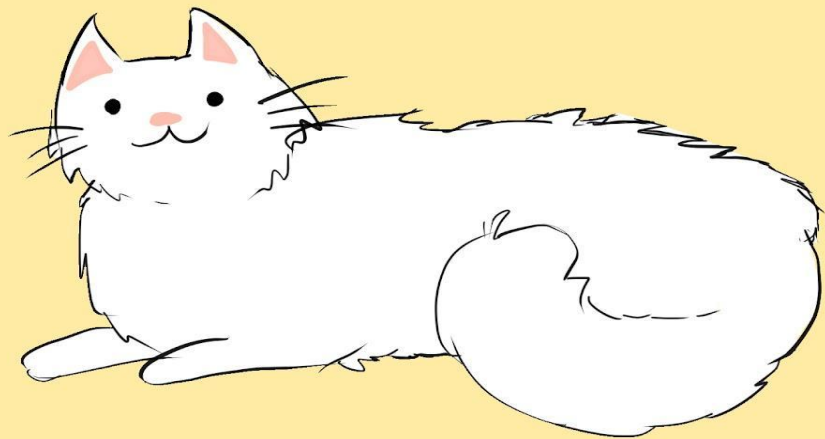


# White Cat, Black Cat

A Children's Book



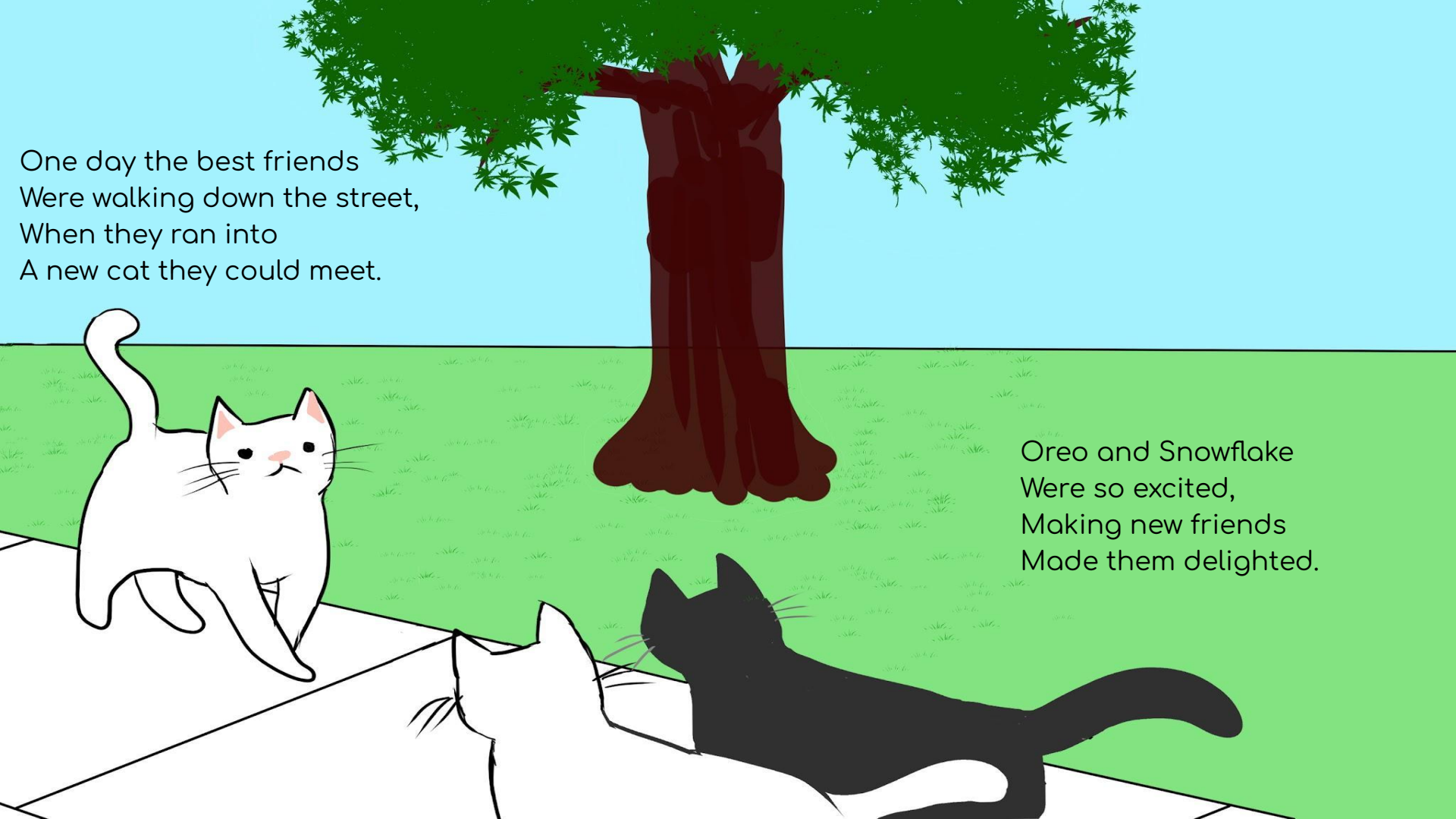
This is Snowflake,  
A white cat.



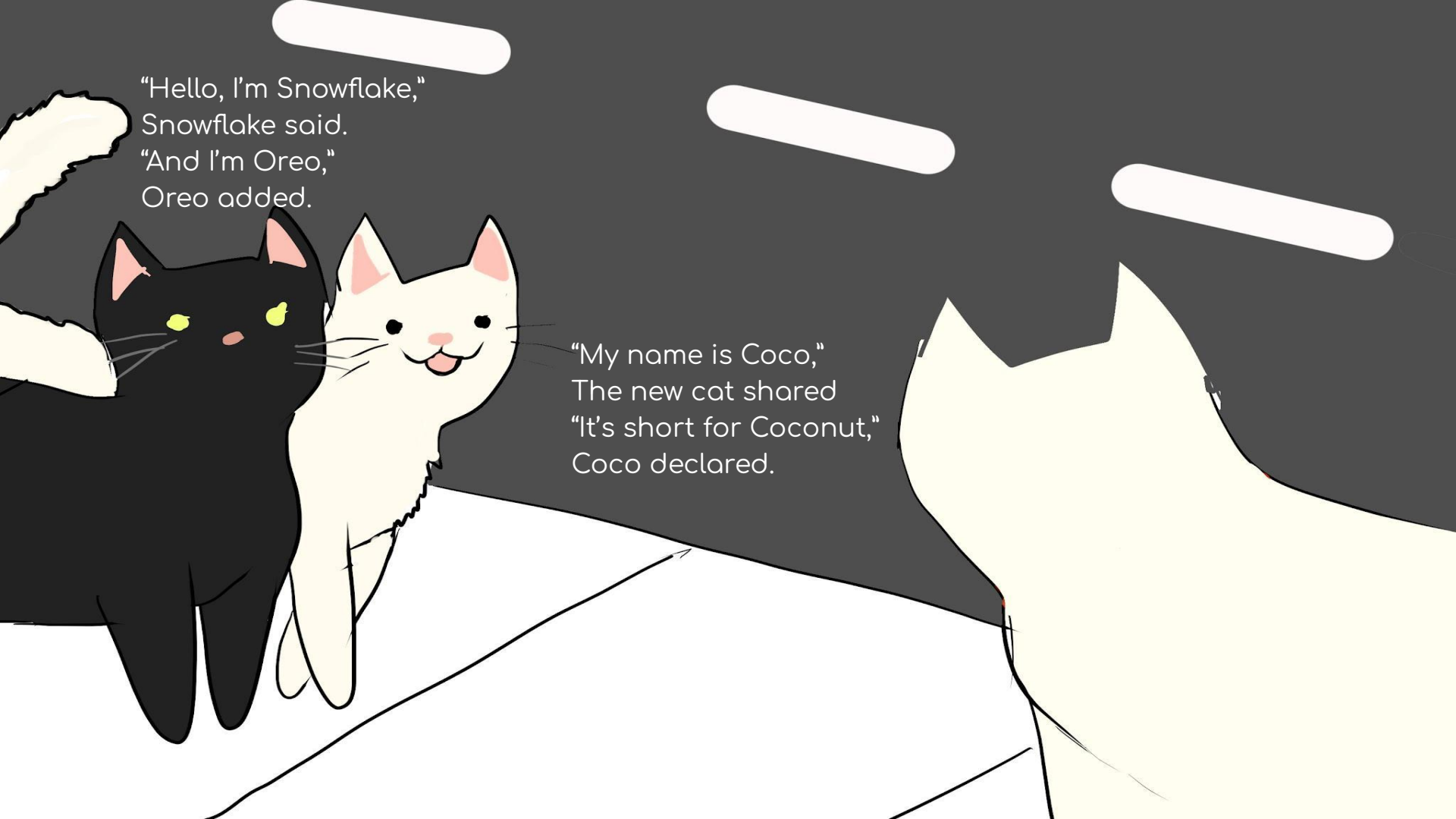
This is Oreo,  
A black cat.




One day the best friends  
Were walking down the street,  
When they ran into  
A new cat they could meet.



Oreo and Snowflake  
Were so excited,  
Making new friends  
Made them delighted.

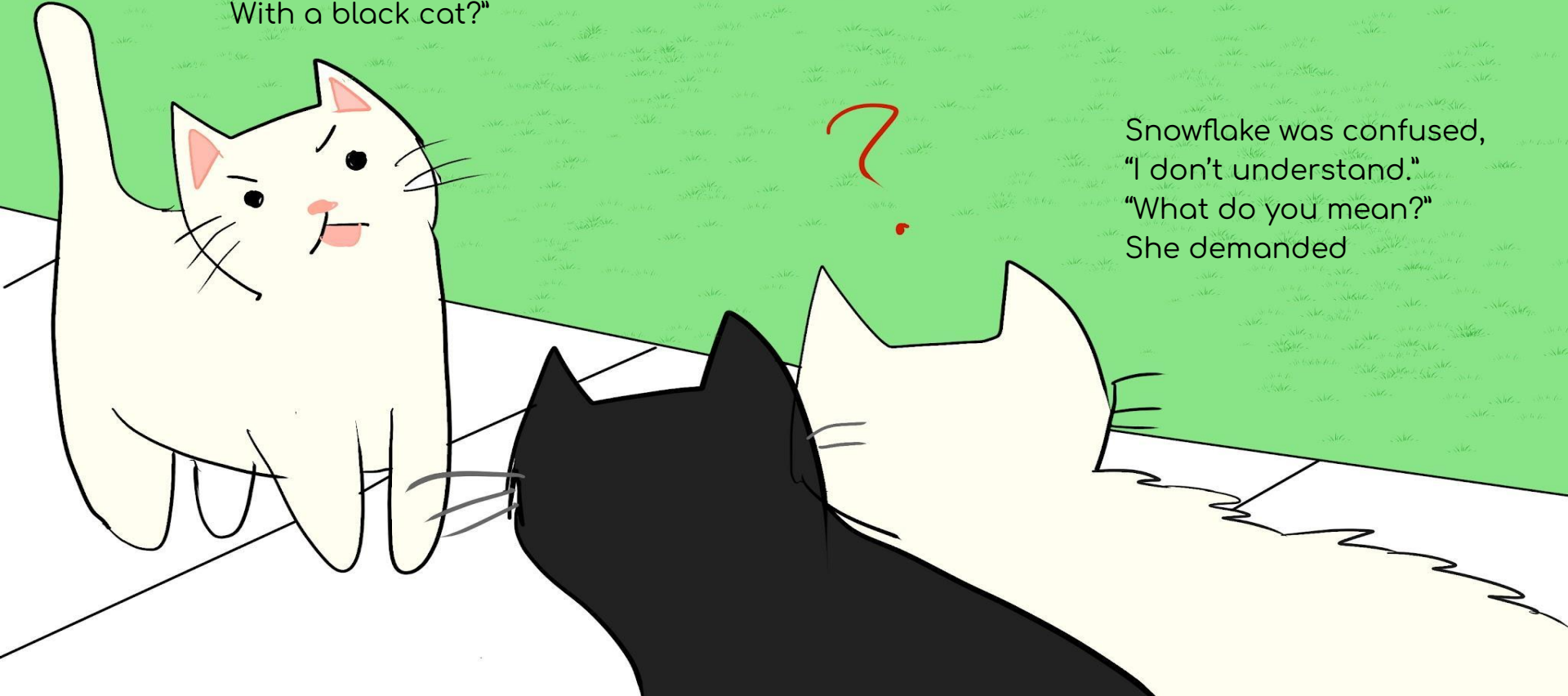


"Hello, I'm Snowflake,"  
Snowflake said.  
"And I'm Oreo,"  
Oreo added.



"My name is Coco,"  
The new cat shared  
"It's short for Coconut,"  
Coco declared.

Then all of a sudden,  
Coco asked,  
"What are you doing  
With a black cat?"



Snowflake was confused,  
"I don't understand."  
"What do you mean?"  
She demanded

"Don't you know?"  
Coco was also confused.  
She seemed scared,  
And then she accused,



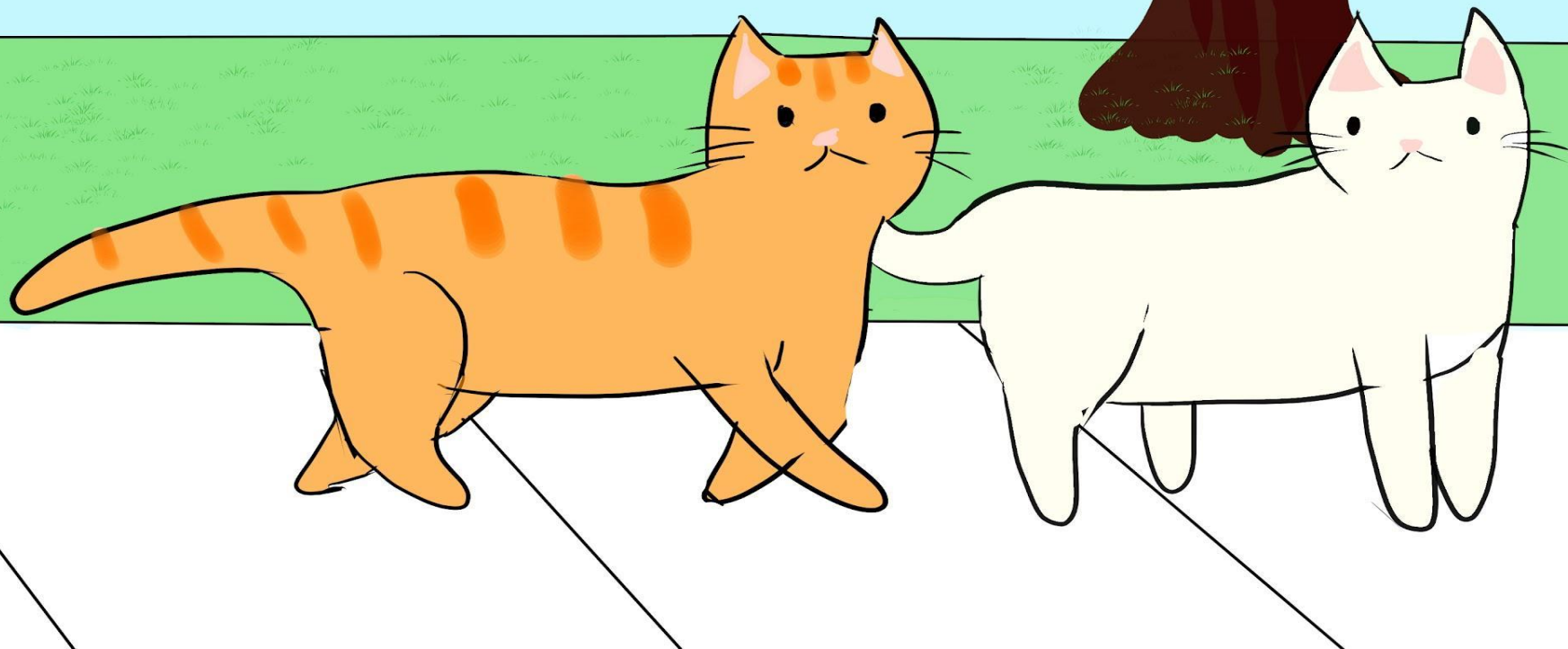
"Black cats are dangerous,  
Very violent too.  
You should get away  
Before it hurts you"

At this point,  
Snowflake got mad.  
She defended her friend,  
“Oreo’s not bad.”



As they were talking,  
An orange cat strolled by.  
This is Cheeto, a neighbor,  
He stopped to say hi.

But when Cheeto heard  
Their conversation,  
Cheeto was filled  
With frustration.



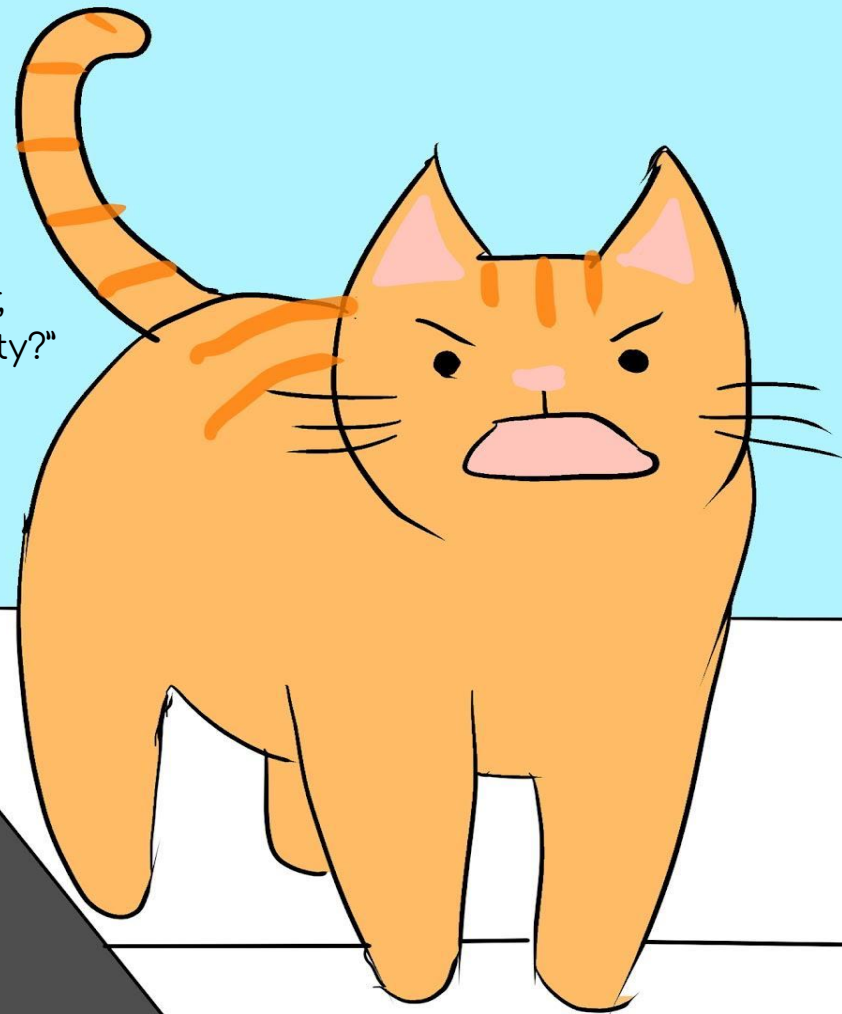


"Why would you say that?  
That's stereotyping.  
Generalizing cats  
Can hurt their feelings."

"Why do you judge,"  
He said emphatically,  
"By the color of their fur,  
And not their personality?"

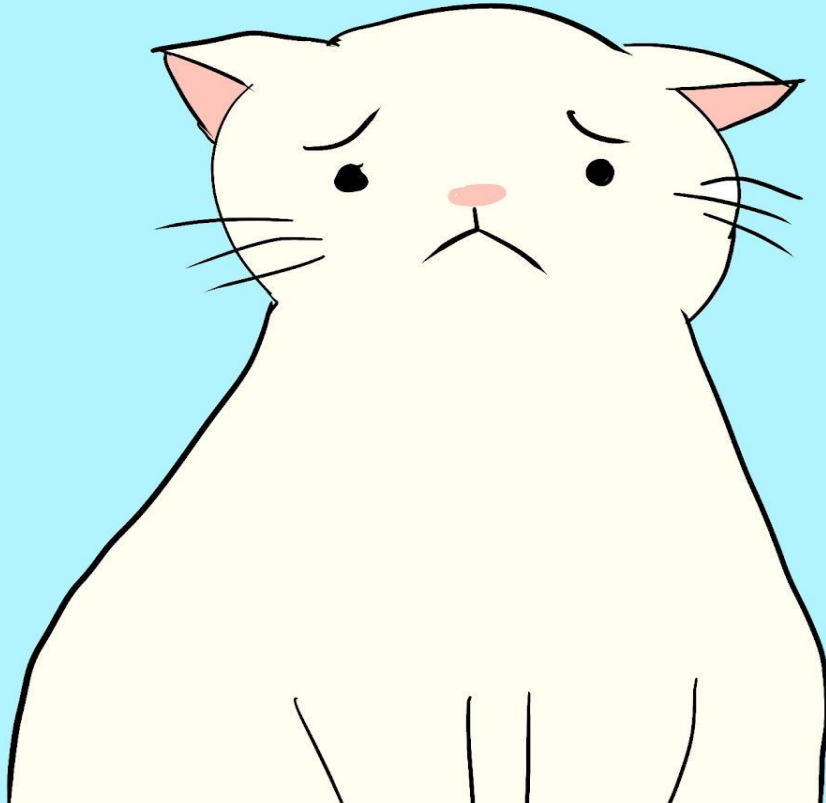
"Do you know Oreo?  
Know every single thing?  
Instead of being prejudiced  
Why don't you try learning?"

"Though you might not  
Have meant any harm,  
Your microaggressions  
Caused a lot of alarm."



"I'm sorry," said Coco.  
She was ashamed.  
"Oreo did nothing wrong,  
I misplaced my blame."

"I don't really know you,  
Not now, or then  
So I promise I won't do this  
In the future again."

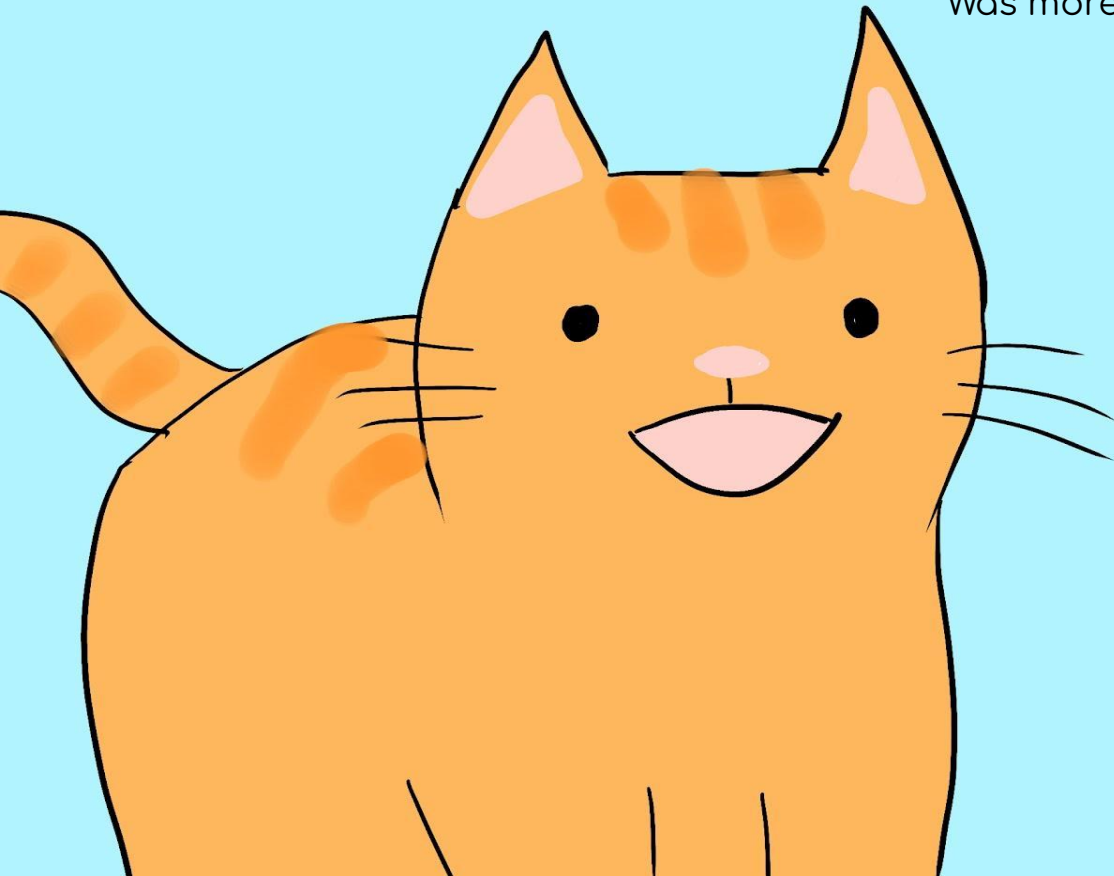


And with that apology,  
Coco left.  
Filled with guilt,  
Like she had committed a theft.

"Phew," Cheeto said,  
"That went well.  
I was really scared  
That they would yell"

Oreo and Snowflake  
Were quite impressed.  
"I was too frightened to stand up,"  
Snowflake confessed.





"That's okay," the orange cat said,  
"I was scared too.  
But doing the right thing  
Was more important, I knew."

"When faced with any  
Difficult situation  
It's hard to speak out,  
There are expectations."

"But remember,  
If not you, then who?  
Be an upstander and prevent  
Harm no one can undo"

"Whether helping a stranger  
Or your best friend,  
Anyone in need,  
You can defend."

Oreo and Snowflake  
Were filled with gratitude.  
To their new friend,  
They said, "Thank you,"

And with that, they continued on,  
To fight against what's wrong,  
To stand up and take action,  
And just stay strong.



The End

# Words to Know:

Microaggression - Small insults, actions, and comments that show bias (what Coco had said)

Stereotype - an often incorrect assumption about everyone in a particular group (black cats)

Prejudice - a preconceived, unfair bias or opinion without a good reason (that black cats are bad)

Upstander - Someone who takes action against bullying (in this case, Cheeto, but anyone can be an upstander)