

Six-Toed Kitty

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Hannah had a cat that was a very good hunter. Why? Topsy had very sharp claws. She liked to sharpen them on the drapes. She liked to sharpen them on the curtains. She liked to sharpen them on the carpet. She used her claws to hunt.

Topsy the cat could catch birds. Topsy could catch mice. Topsy could catch bugs. Topsy could anything, even trouble!

Sometimes, Hannah wondered about cat's feet. If Topsy was a great hunter with five toes, how would she do with six? She always wondered, but then she met her neighbor's cat, Billy. Billy had six toes on each of his feet! Billy seemed like he would be a catching mice.

Hannah watched Billy try to hunt one day. He crawled through the grass. He tried to catch a bird. Wow! He was so slow. Then he tried to catch his tail. He fell over. He didn't seem smart. Later, Billy tried to climb the back porch. His feet didn't seem to work right. He fell off the porch. He was so weird.

Hannah talked to Billy's owner. "Why is your cat so weird?"

Billy's owner, a silly old man, laughed. He said, "Billy was born weird. Things like that happen sometimes."

"Why is he bad at hunting?"

"When animals are born strange, it usually isn't good. It does not always help them."

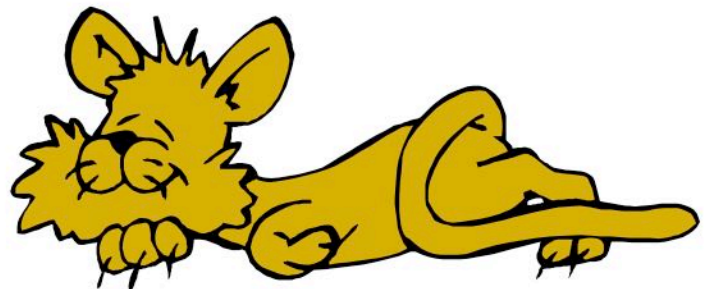
Hannah frowned. It was sad. "That is too bad."

"With some animals, it helps them a lot. They hunt better or live better. Usually that does not happen."

"Well, Billy seems happy at least."

"He is." The old man picked up his cat.

"And he's friendly." Hannah smiled when the cat purred.



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. FILL IN THE BLANK: Topsy the cat was a good _____ .
 - A. cat
 - B. hunter
 - C. dog
 - D. friend

2. Hannah is curious about what?
 - A. cat's tails
 - B. cat's ears
 - C. cat's feet
 - D. cat's teeth

3. Billy has how many toes on each foot?
 - A. four
 - B. five
 - C. six
 - D. seven

4. YES OR NO: Billy the cat is good at catching and climbing.
 - A. Yes
 - B. No

5. YES OR NO: Billy the cat is a mean cat.
 - A. Yes
 - B. No

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