

Words Are CAtegorical



I and You



and



Don't

Forget Who



What Is a Pronoun?

by Brian P. Cleary

illustrated by Brian Gable

# I and You and Don't Forget Who

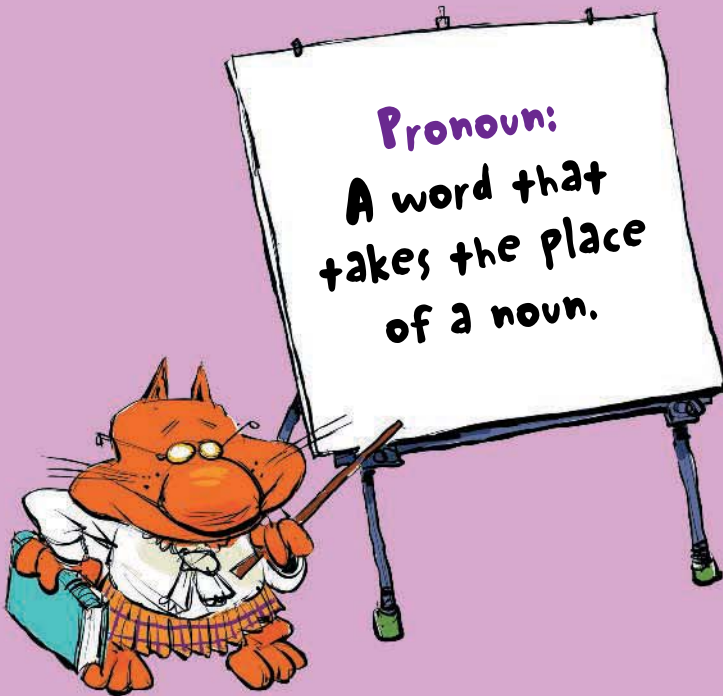


What Is a Pronoun?



To my sister Maggie, who is  
very much a word person.  
—B.P.C.

To Wendy  
—B.G.



**NOTE:** Some of the pronouns in this book are not printed in color. As each kind of pronoun is discussed, color type highlights only the corresponding pronouns. Can you find all of the pronouns?



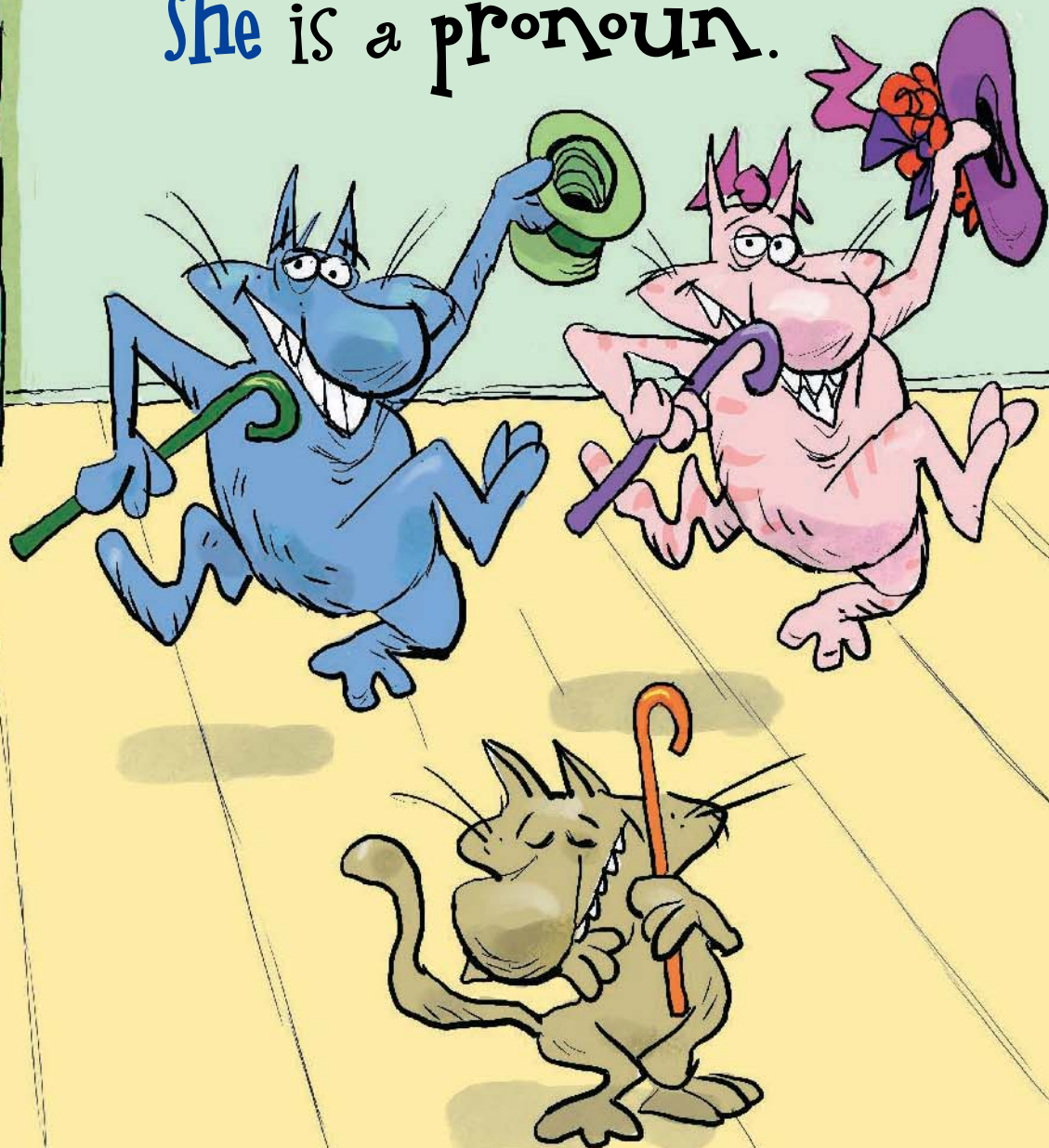
I and You  
and  
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He is a pronoun.  
She is a pronoun.



Even lil' ol' **me** is a pronoun.

So is I.

So is you,



Whom

and

they

and

We

and

Who.





Just like a substitute  
teaches your class,



When **she's** asked to fill in  
for your teacher,

a pronoun steps in as  
a sub for a noun,



becoming the star of the feature.





Pronouns can save us  
a boatload of words  
and help to avoid repetition.

**They** stand in for "Venice,"

"Marie,"

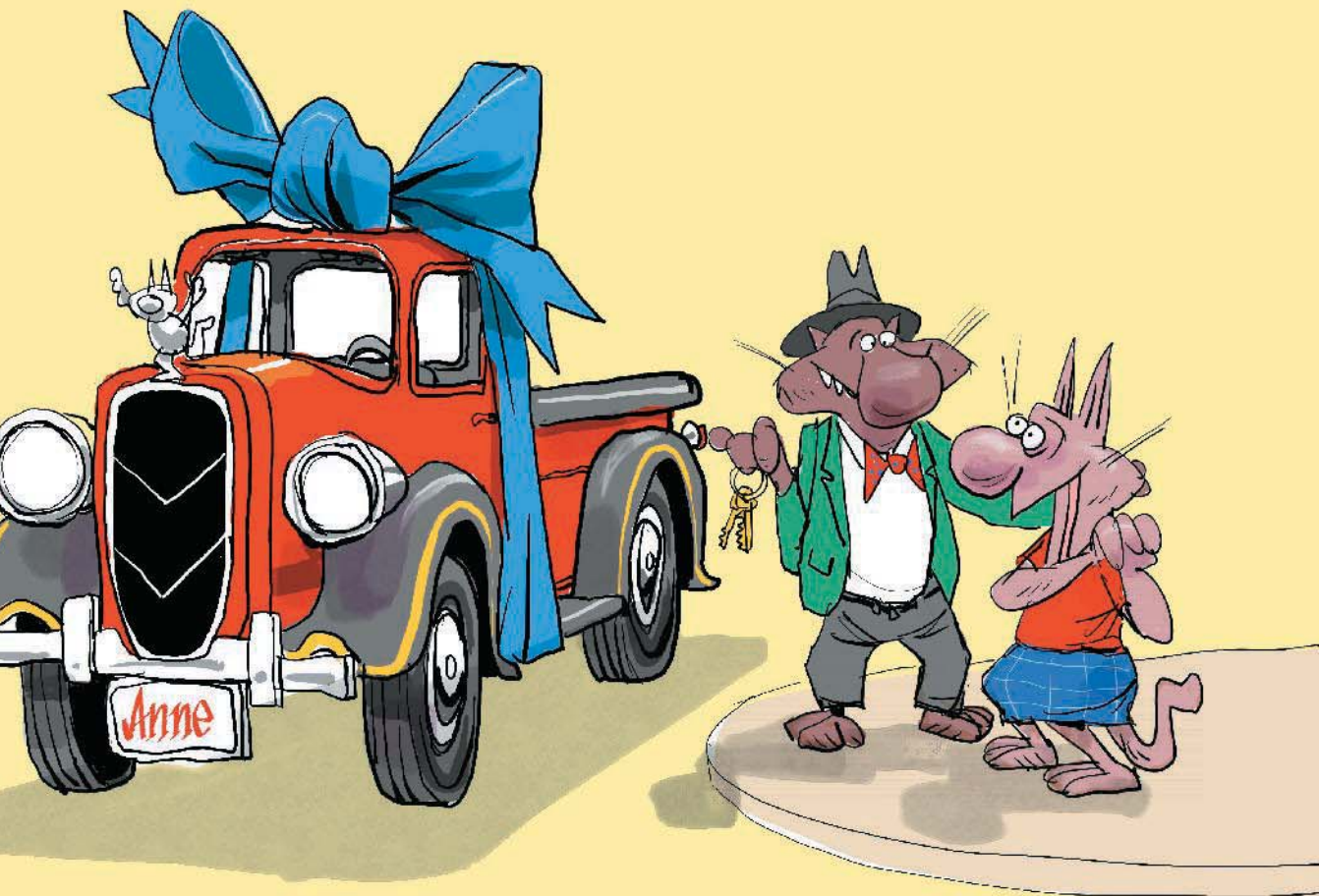
or "Spaghetti."



because **that's**  
their specified mission.



Without **them** **we'd** say,  
"Anne's father surprised Anne  
and bought Anne  
a sporty new truck.





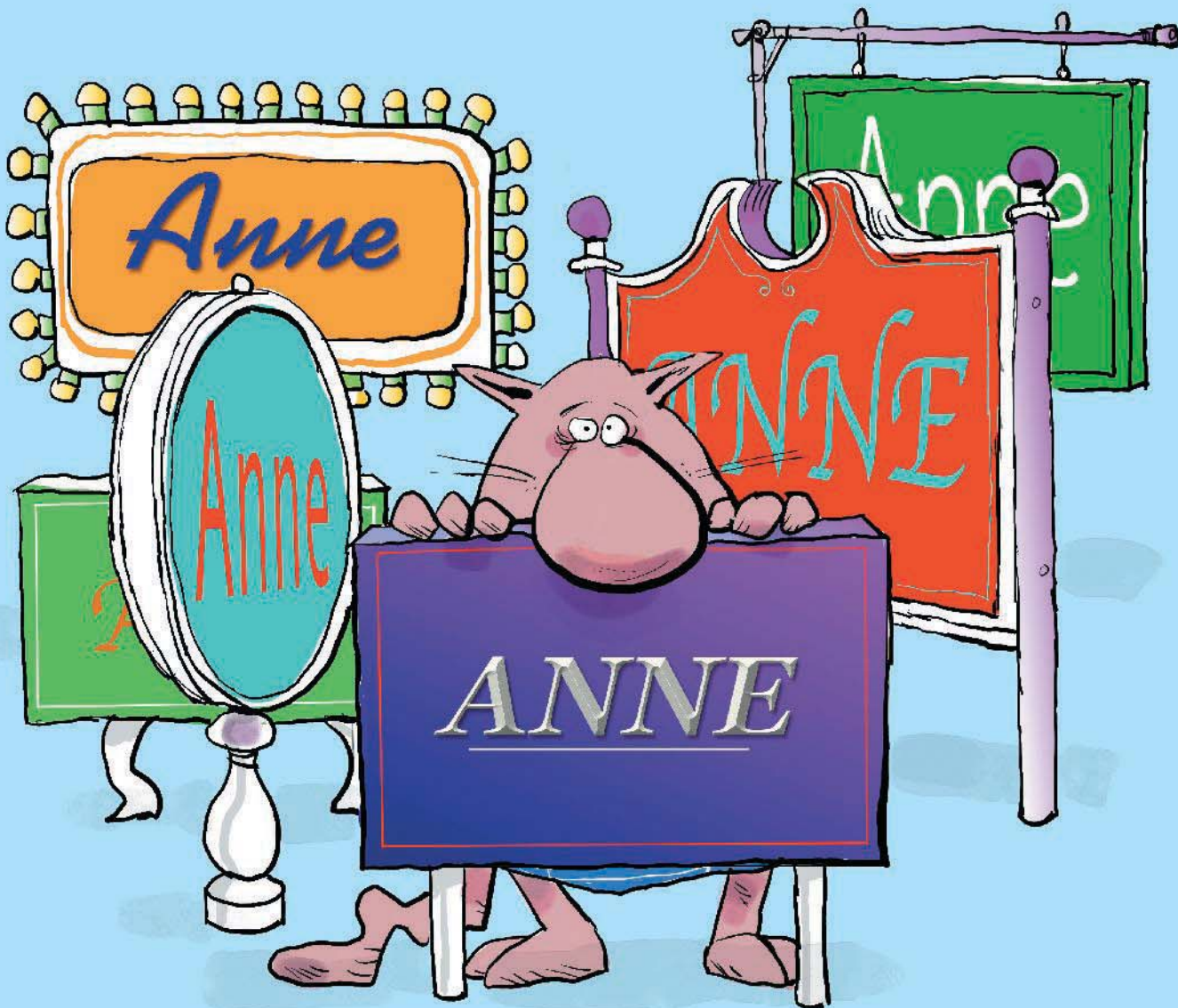
Anne got so excited  
that when Anne first saw it,



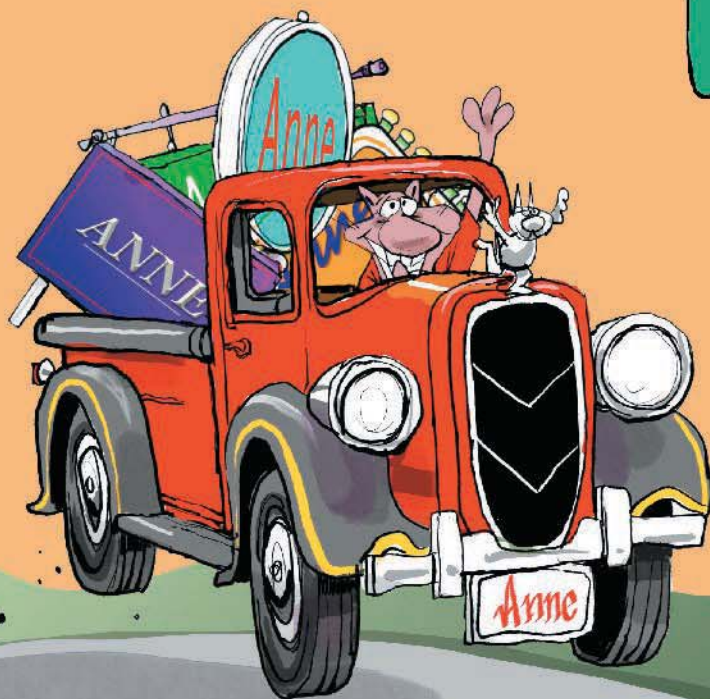
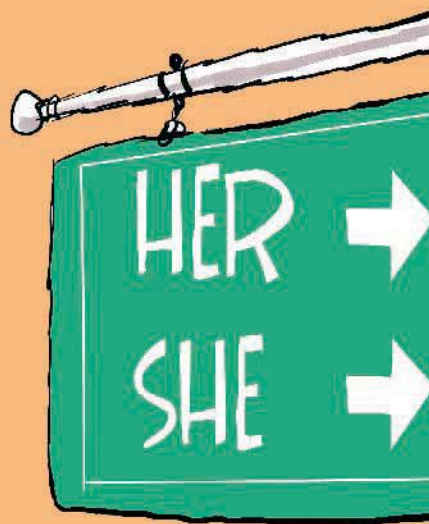
Anne couldn't believe  
Anne's good luck."

Now, Anne is a really big fan of her name,

but even *she'd* have to agree.



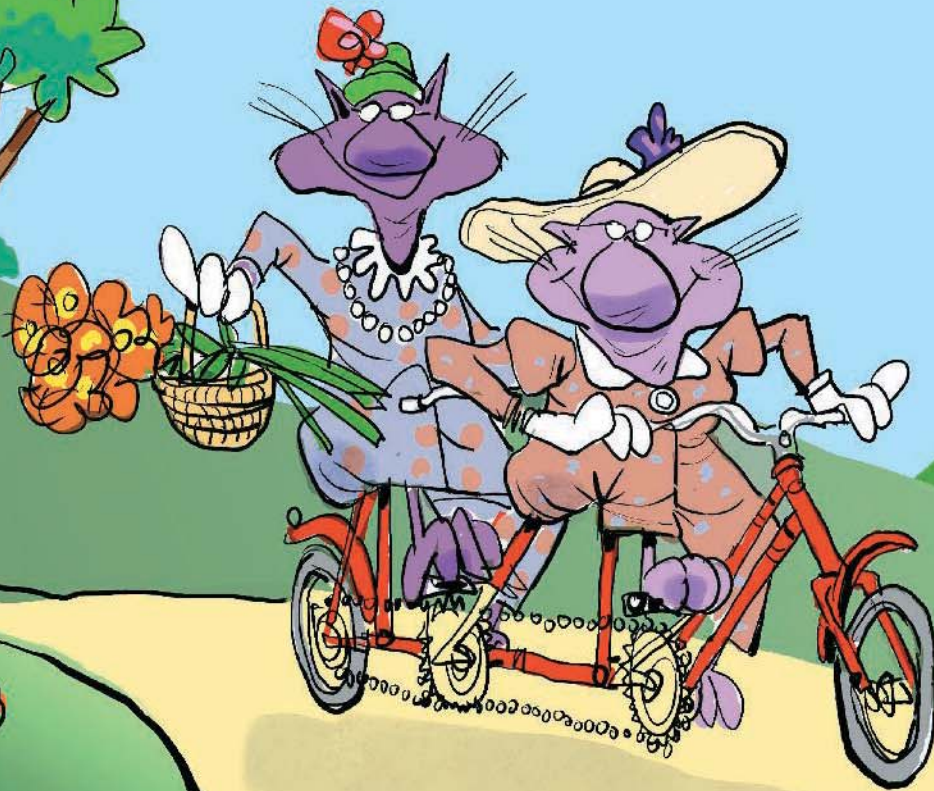
These phrases could  
sure use a "her"  
here and there,



and perhaps an occasional "she."



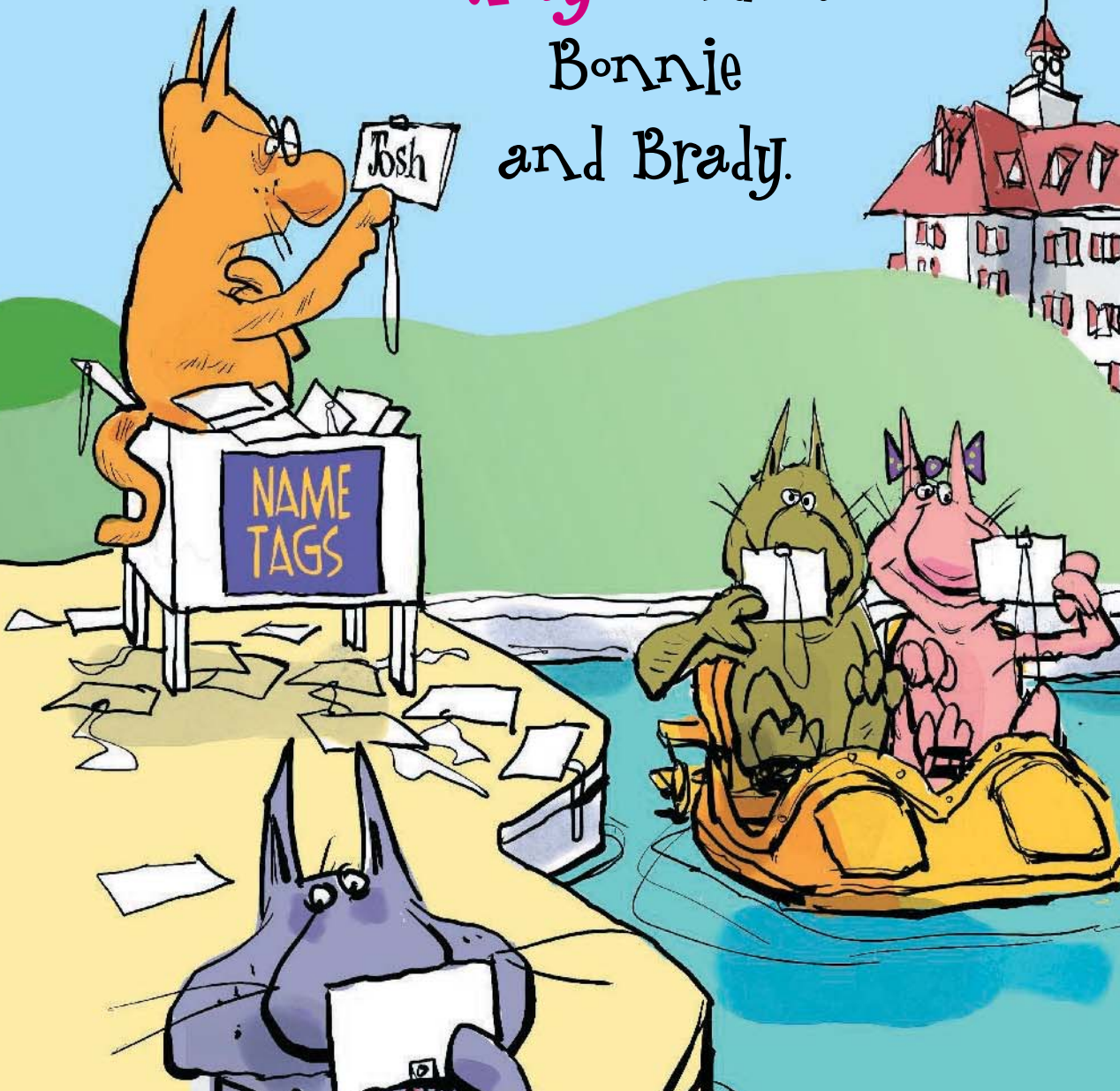
"Personal pronouns"  
stand in for a noun,



like Mrs. McKinley or Grady.

He could be Steven,  
I might mean Josh,

they could be  
Bonnie  
and Brady.





Sometimes  
a pronoun  
is very  
"possessive."

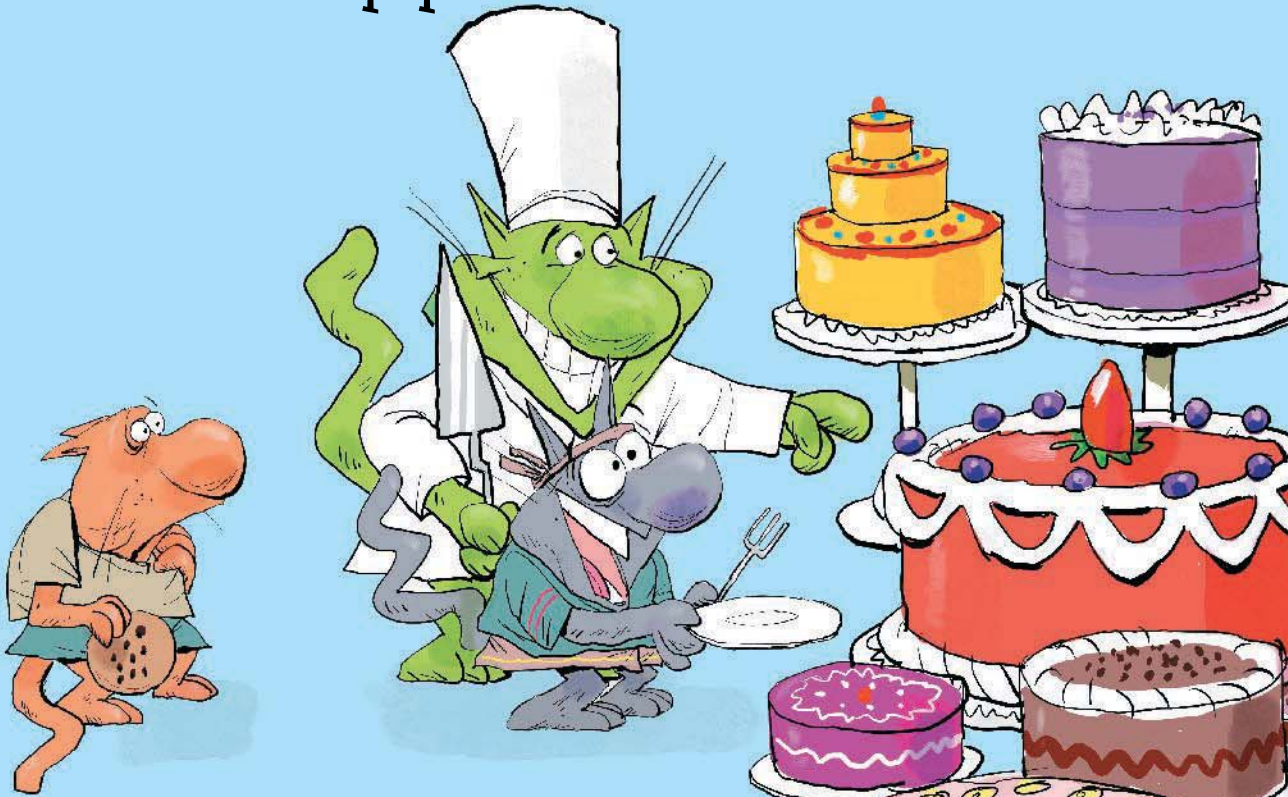


This cookie  
is **mine**,

it's not **hers**.

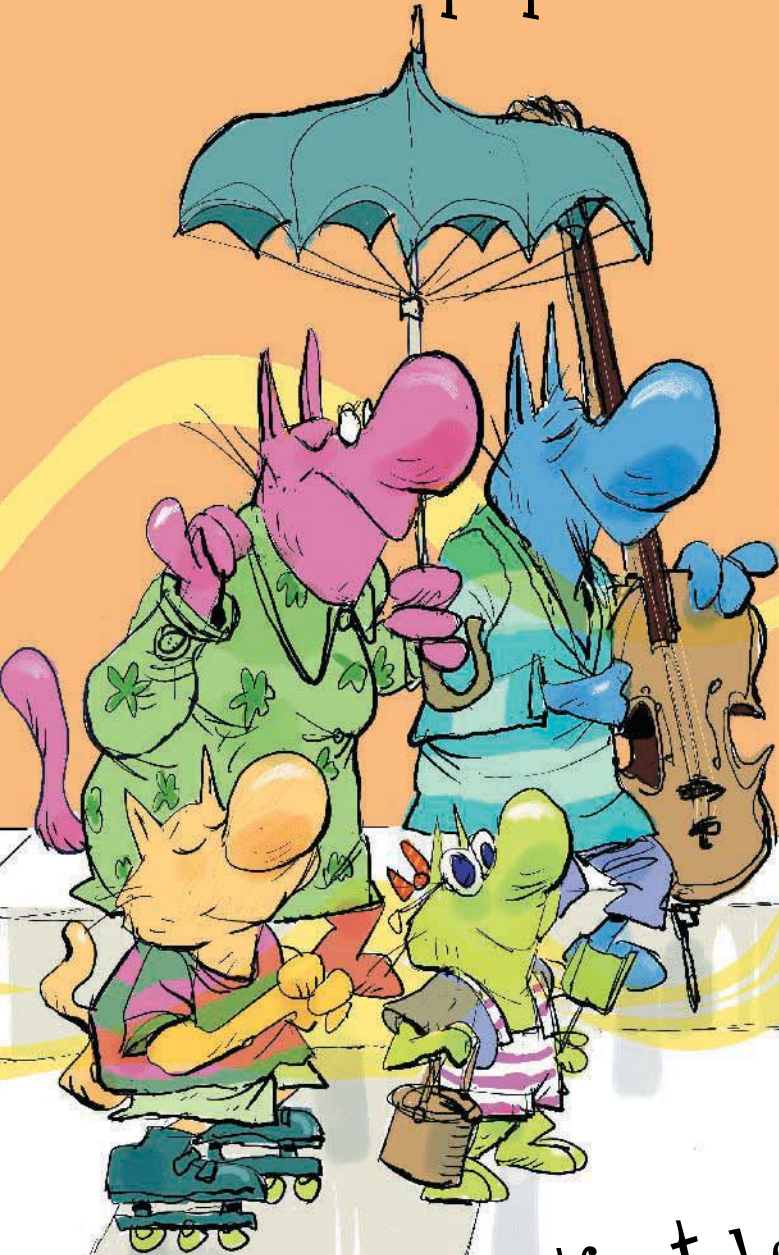


“Demonstrative pronouns”  
help point something out,



as in  
**this**, **these**,  
and **those**  
are all yours.

"Indefinite pronouns"  
tell about people



and things without being specific,



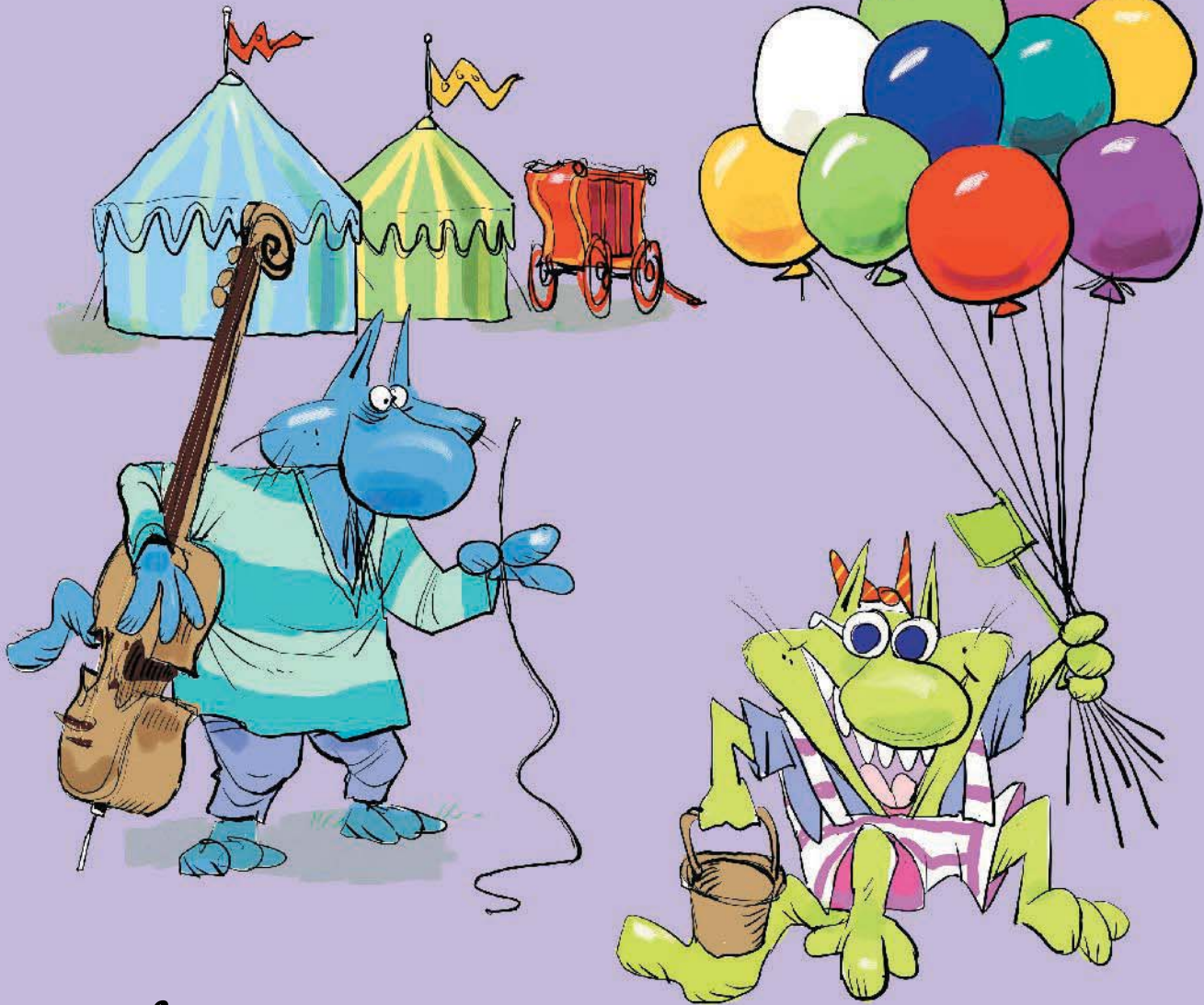
as in **Someone** around  
here is quite a good cook,



and **Something** in here  
smells terrific.

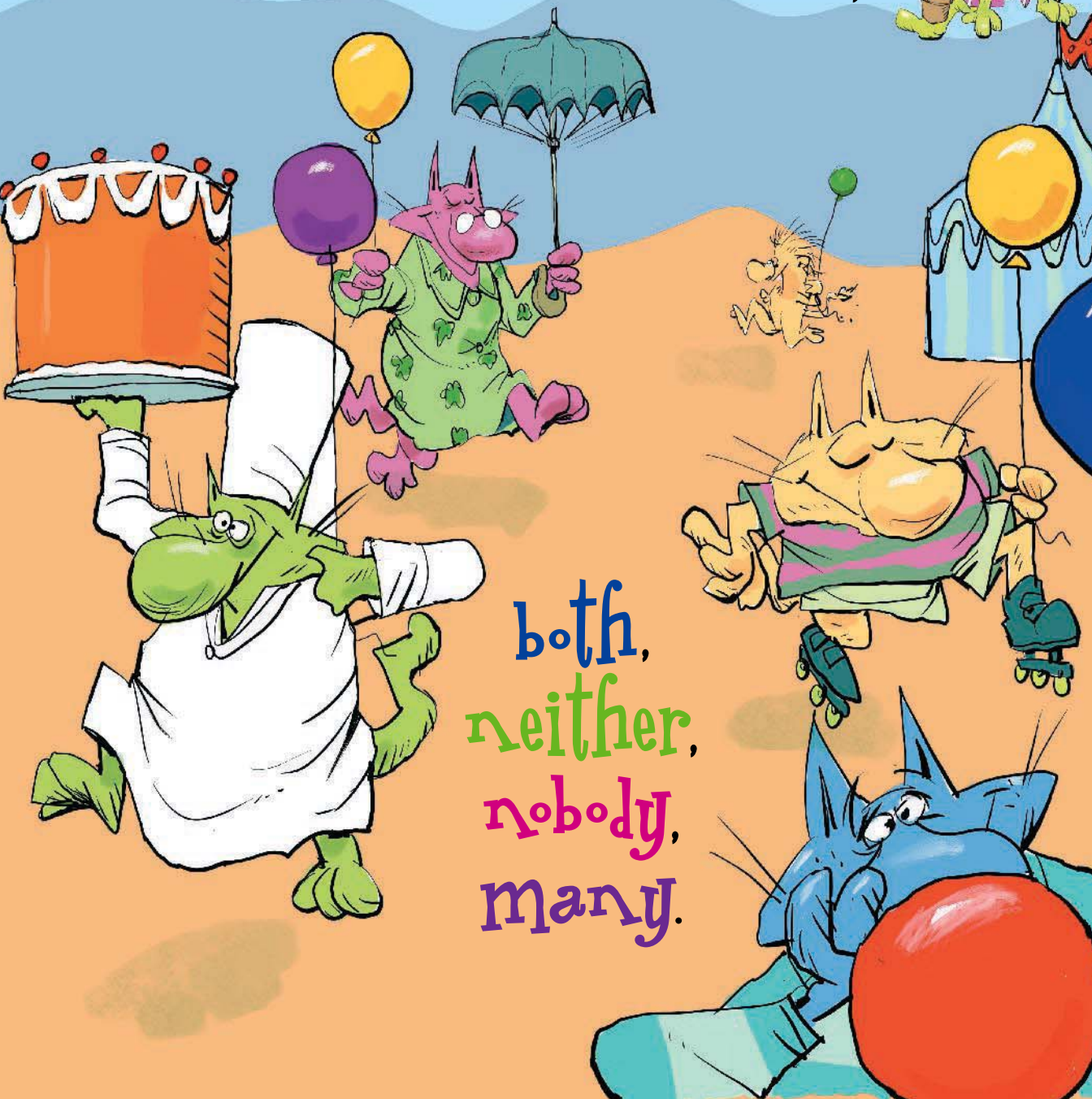


Nothing and all  
are indefinite, too.



So are anyone,  
no one, or any.

Everyone, none,  
Several, somebody, some,



both,  
neither,  
nobody,  
many.

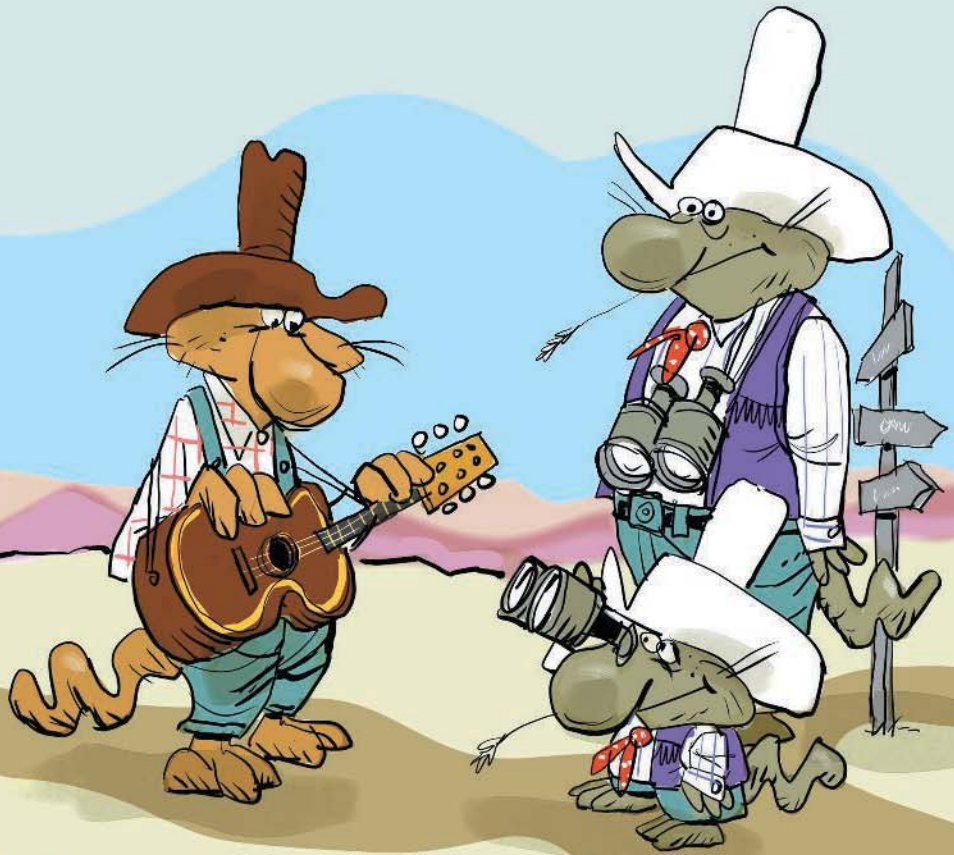


If it helps form a question,  
it's called "interrogative"—  
a very inquisitive pronoun.





What are you looking at?  
Who is your daddy?



Which road do we take  
to the hoedown?



“Who” can replace  
words like *he*, *she*, and *me*.

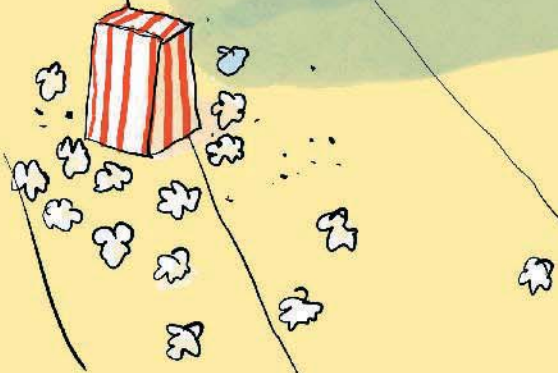
It's a pronoun that's  
constantly doing.





Who ordered pizza?

Who spilled  
the popcorn?



Who started the  
audience booing?



“Whom” takes the place of  
them,  
him,  
and her,



and the action  
is being done to it.

With **whom** am I speaking?

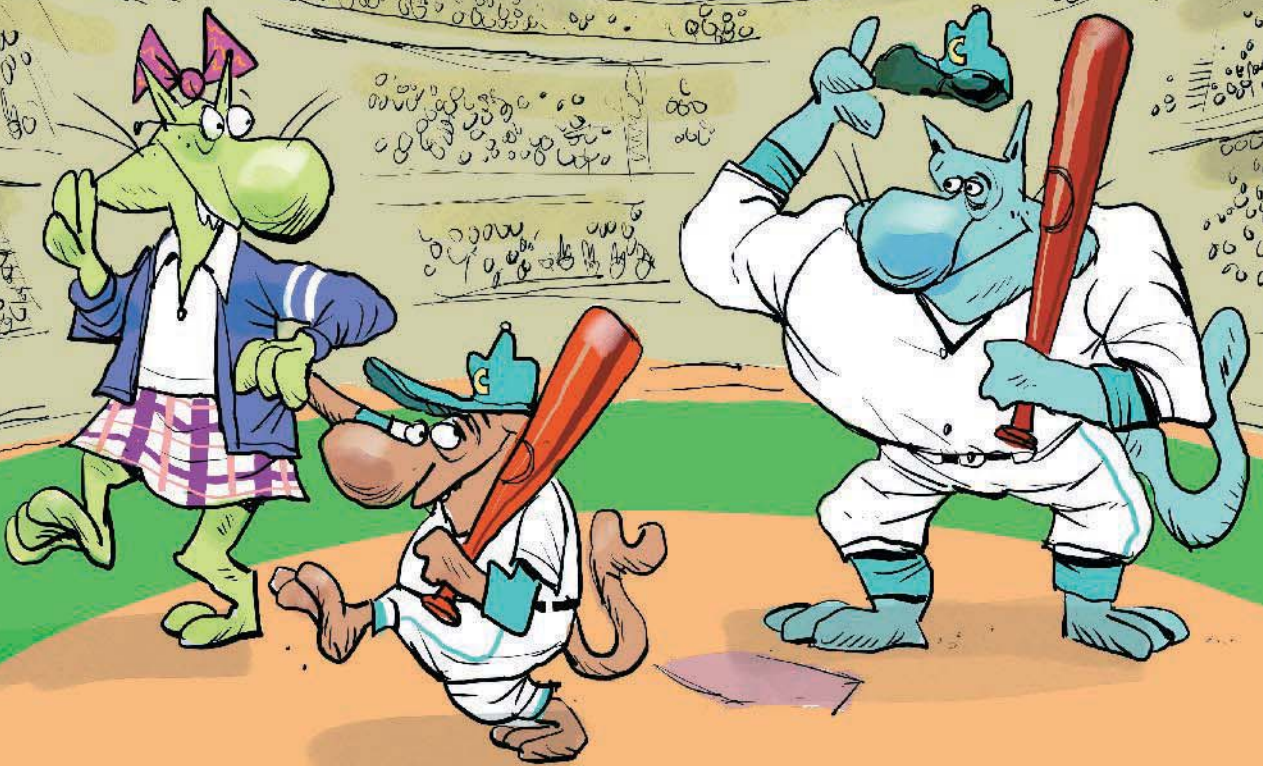
In **whom** can I trust?



To **whom** would you like me to glue it?



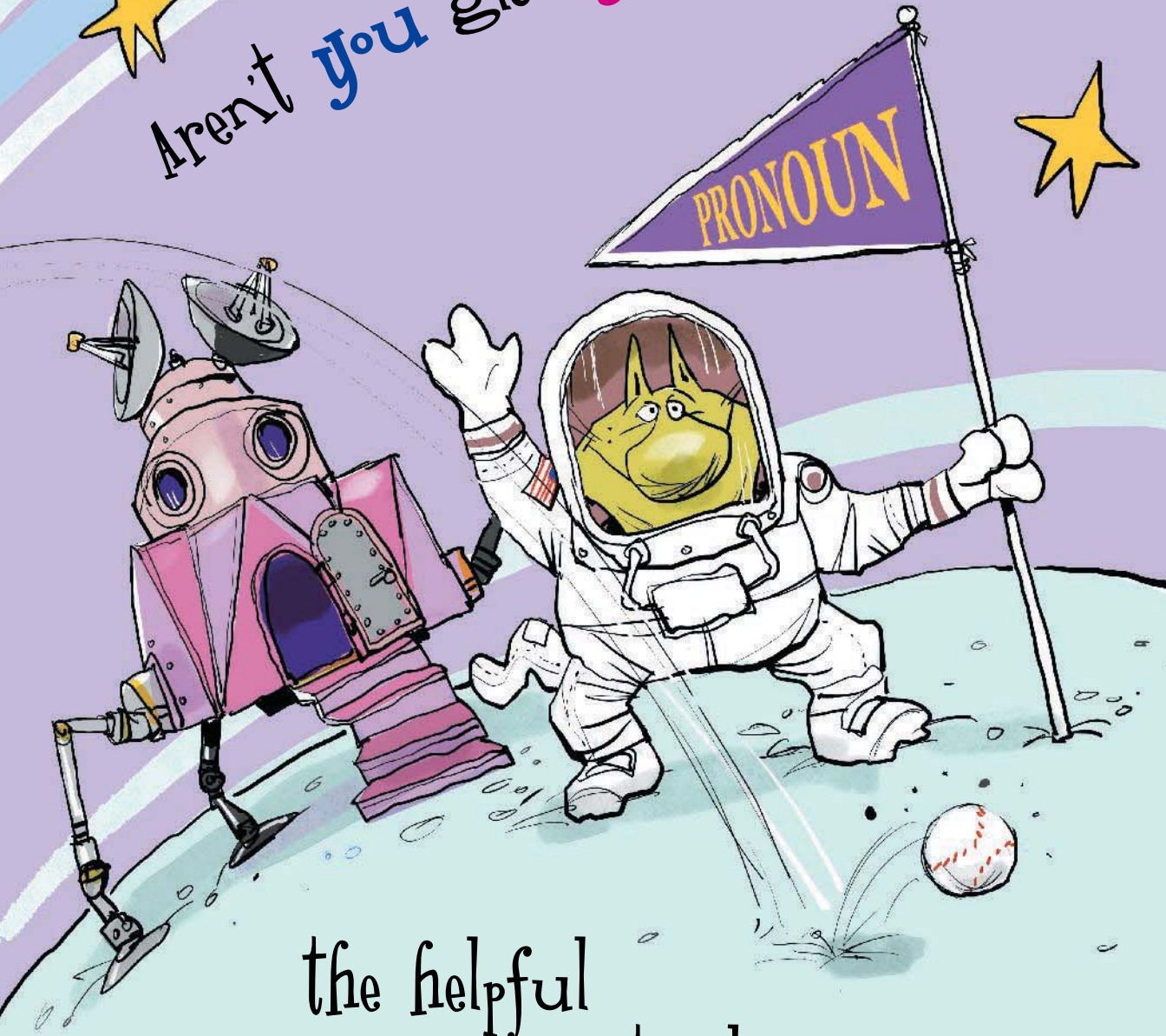
So like a pinch hitter  
Or a good baby-sitter,



the pronoun will say,  
"You can go noun!  
I've got your job covered."



Aren't you glad you've discovered



the helpful  
and practical pronoun?

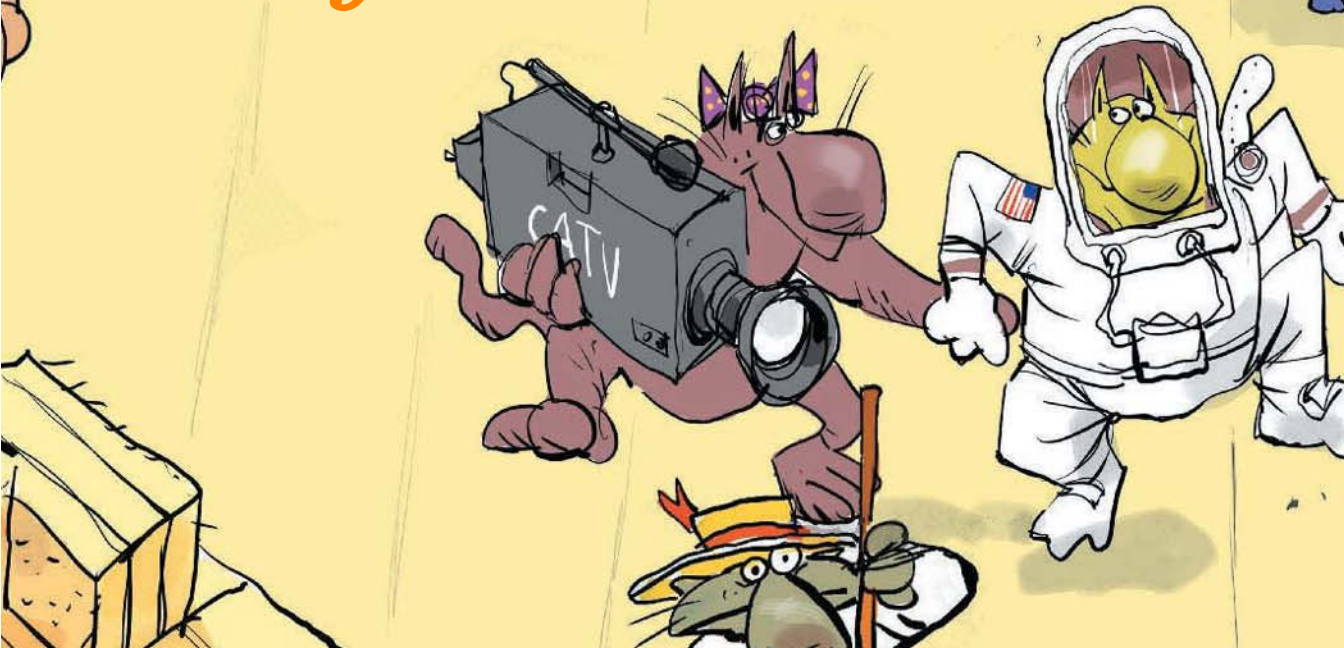
So, **what** is a pronoun?







Do **you** know?



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

**BRIAN P. CLEARY** is the author of the **Words Are Categorical** series, 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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