

# Reading: *Through the Looking-Glass*

READING

LEVEL  
Intermediate

NUMBER  
B2\_1023R\_EN

LANGUAGE  
English

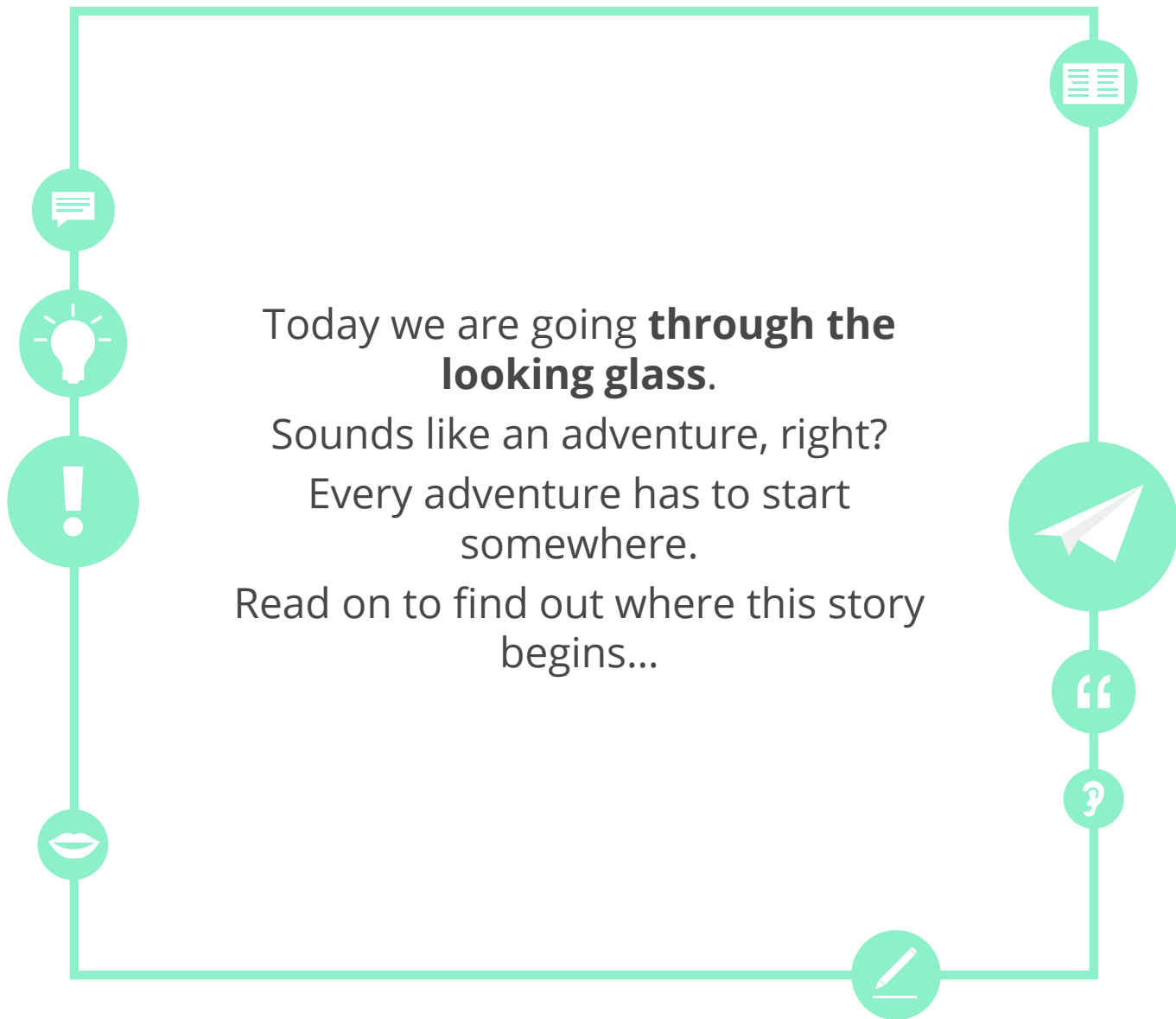




## Goals

- Can read and understand an excerpt of 'Through the Looking-Glass'.
- Can summarise the story and discuss the features of short stories and fairy tales.







## Vocabulary review slide

entirely

mischievous

rubbed

unwound

wicked

scrambled

manners

reproachfully





## Vocabulary review slide

squeaked

looking glass

considering

mischief

curled up

pretending

knots



tangles



## Sentences slide



It is **entirely** possible that the mouse **squeaked**. It is **entirely** impossible that it spoke!

I am **considering** getting a tattoo.  
Should I?



My mother asked me **reproachfully** if I had eaten all the biscuits. I was in big trouble!

My **mischievous** brother is always playing tricks and doing silly pranks. He is always doing some kind of **mischief**.





## Sentences slide



Good **manners**—like saying please and thank you—are very important!

I **curled up** for a nap under a cosy blanket. Hours later, I woke up, **rubbed** my eyes, and wondered what time it was.



My necklace was in **tangles** after I put it in my suitcase. I spent an hour getting all the **knots** out.

When I heard my alarm clock, I **scrambled** out of bed and quickly got ready for work.





## Thinking about titles

The text you will read is from the novel called ***Through the Looking-Glass and What Alice Found There***, written in 1871 by Lewis Carroll. A looking glass is an old fashioned word for **mirror**.



1

Based on the title, what type or genre of story do you think this is?

2

What might it mean to go **through the looking-glass**?

3

Who might the audience for this novel be? Why?





## Through the Looking-Glass

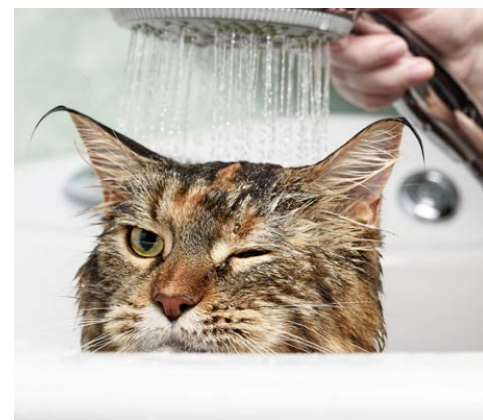
ONE thing was certain, that the *white* kitten had had nothing to do with it:—it was the black kitten's fault **entirely**. For the white kitten had been having its face washed by the old cat for the last quarter of an hour (and bearing it pretty well, **considering**); so you see that it *couldn't* have had any hand in the **mischief**.





## Through the Looking-Glass

The way Dinah washed her children's faces was this: first she held the poor thing down by its ear with one paw, and then with the other paw she **rubbed** its face all over, the wrong way, beginning at the nose: and just now, as I said, she was hard at work on the white kitten, which was lying quite still and trying to purr—no doubt feeling that it was all meant for its good.



bath time for the  
kittens



## Through the Looking-Glass

But the black kitten had been finished with earlier in the afternoon, and so, while Alice was sitting **curled up** in a corner of the great armchair, half talking to herself and half asleep, the kitten had been having a grand game of romps with the ball of worsted Alice had been trying to **wind up**, and had been rolling it up and down till it had all come undone again; and there it was, spread over the hearth-rug, all **knots and tangles**, with the kitten running after its own tail in the middle.



## True or false? Correct any incorrect statements

1. Dinah washes her children's faces very gently and quickly.

2. The black kitten was playing a game with a ball of yarn.

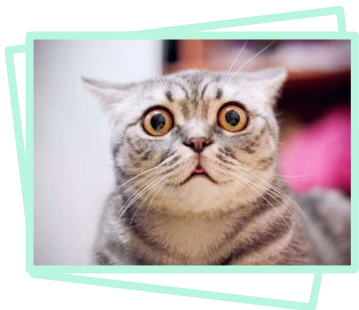
3. Alice was curled up in an armchair working on her homework.

4. The white kitten is having its face washed at the start of the story.



## Setting the scene

The first part of this story tells us about the setting. There are also three characters: Alice, the black kitten, and the old cat, Dinah. Discuss each of these characters. Describe their actions as well as what we learn about their personality.



What are they doing?



How would you describe them?



Alice

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Dinah

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The black kitten

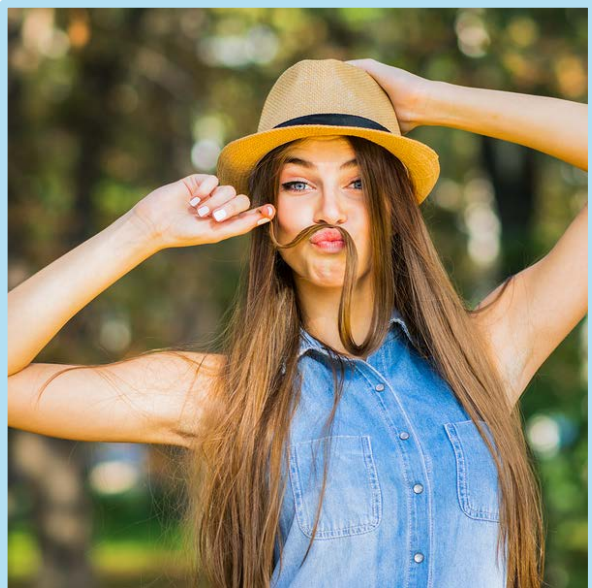
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## Having a hand in mischief



Alice says the white kitten *couldn't* have had any hand in the **mischief**. It was the black kitten who was involved in **mischief**.

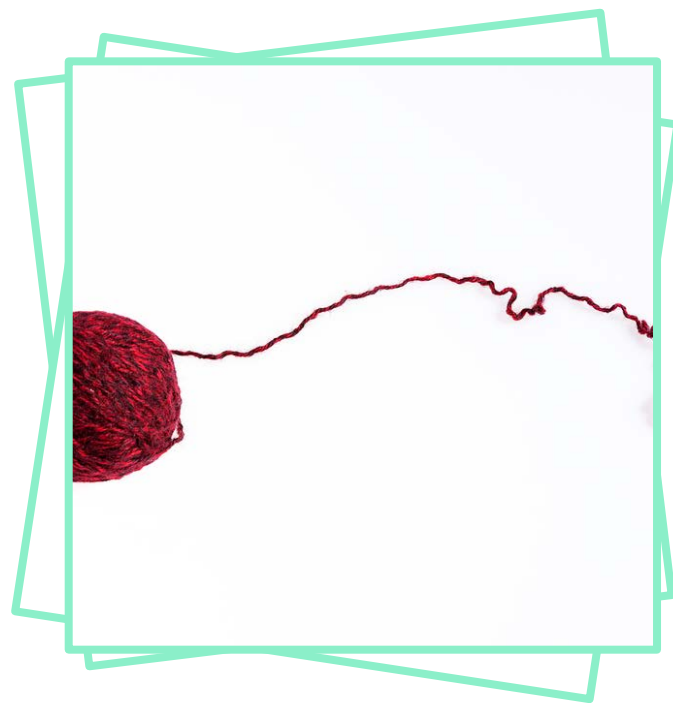
What is **mischief**? What kind of actions or people would you describe as **mischievous**?



## A ball of worsted

Alice has been trying to wind up her ball of **worsted**, which is a kind of wool. What do you think Alice is doing with the wool?

Generally speaking, what kind of things do you think Alice likes to do?





## Through the Looking-Glass

"Oh, you **wicked wicked** little thing!" cried Alice, catching up the kitten, and giving it a little kiss to make it understand that it was in **disgrace**.

"Really, Dinah ought to have taught you better **manners**! You *ought*, Dinah, you know you ought!" she added, looking **reproachfully** at the old cat, and speaking in as cross a voice as she could manage—and then she **scrambled** back into the armchair, taking the kitten and the worsted with her, and began winding up the ball again.







## Through the Looking-Glass

But she didn't get on very fast, as she was talking all the time, sometimes to the kitten, and sometimes to herself. Kitty sat very **demurely** on her knee, pretending to watch the progress of the **winding**, and now and then putting out one paw and gently touching the ball, as if it would be **glad** to help if it might.



Kitty watching demurely



## Through the Looking-Glass

"Do you know what tomorrow is, Kitty?" Alice began. "You'd have guessed if you'd been up in the window with me—only Dinah was making you **tidy**, so you couldn't. I was watching the boys getting in sticks for the bonfire—and it wants plenty of **sticks**, Kitty! Only it got so cold, and it snowed so, they had to leave off. Never mind, Kitty, we'll go and see the bonfire tomorrow."



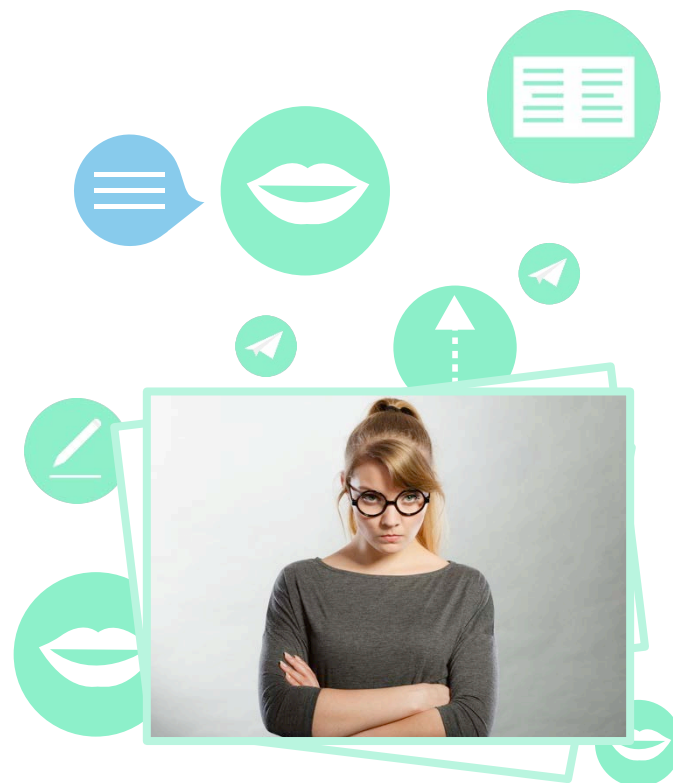
## Talking reproachfully

**Alice scolds her cat Dinah and speaks to her reproachfully. Why? Talk about when you might speak reproachfully to somebody (person or animal!), and what it sounds like. Practise out loud.**

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"Really, Dinah ought to have taught you better manners! You *ought*, Dinah, you know you ought!" she added, looking reproachfully at the old cat, and speaking in as cross a voice as she could manage.

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Alice tells Dinah that she should have taught her kittens better manners. Imagine that Dinah can respond to her. Complete the dialogue.



Really, Dinah! You ought to have taught your kittens better manners!

Well, kittens should \_\_\_\_\_.

Well, the sweet and wicked black kitten is full of trouble.  
Today he \_\_\_\_\_.

What do you mean? What kind of manners?

I think my kittens are just fine! In fact \_\_\_\_\_.

Oh, Alice! He's just \_\_\_\_\_.



## Alice's conversation with the kitten

Fill in the gap with the word that fits best

1. Alice tells the kitten that boys are getting sticks for a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. They had to stop gathering sticks because it was \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Alice sometimes talks to the kitten, and sometimes she talks to \_\_\_\_\_.
4. While Alice was looking out the window, kitty was having her \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Kitty sits on Alice's \_\_\_\_\_ and pretends to watch her wind the ball of wool.

herself

bonfire

face washed

cold and snowy

knee



## Through the Looking-Glass

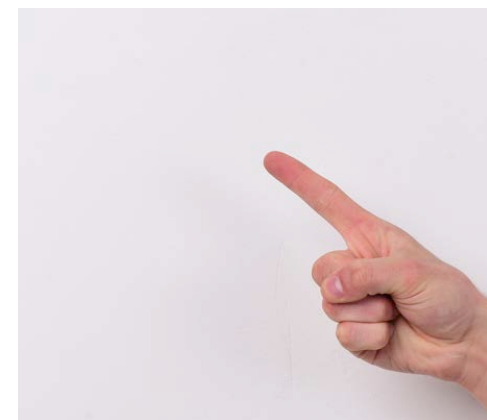
Here Alice **wound** two or three turns of the worsted round the kitten's neck, just to see how it would look: this led to a **scramble**, in which the ball rolled down upon the floor, and yards and yards of it got **unwound** again.





## Through the Looking-Glass

"Do you know, I was so angry, Kitty," Alice went on, as soon as they were comfortably settled again, "when I saw all the **mischief** you had been doing, I was very nearly opening the window, and putting you out into the snow! And you'd have deserved it, you little **mischievous** darling! What have you got to say for yourself? Now don't interrupt me!" she went on, holding up one finger. "I'm going to tell you all your faults. Number one: you **squeaked** twice while Dinah was washing your face this morning. Now you can't deny it, Kitty: I heard you! What's that you say?"



Listing Kitty's faults



## Talking about tone

**During this afternoon, Alice scolds her kitten for its mischievous behaviour. Do you think she is being serious, silly, or somewhere in between? Read them aloud, trying out different tones and emotions. How does the meaning change?**

I was very nearly  
opening the  
window, and  
putting you out  
into the snow!

What have you  
got to say for  
yourself?

You can't deny it,  
Kitty. I heard you!

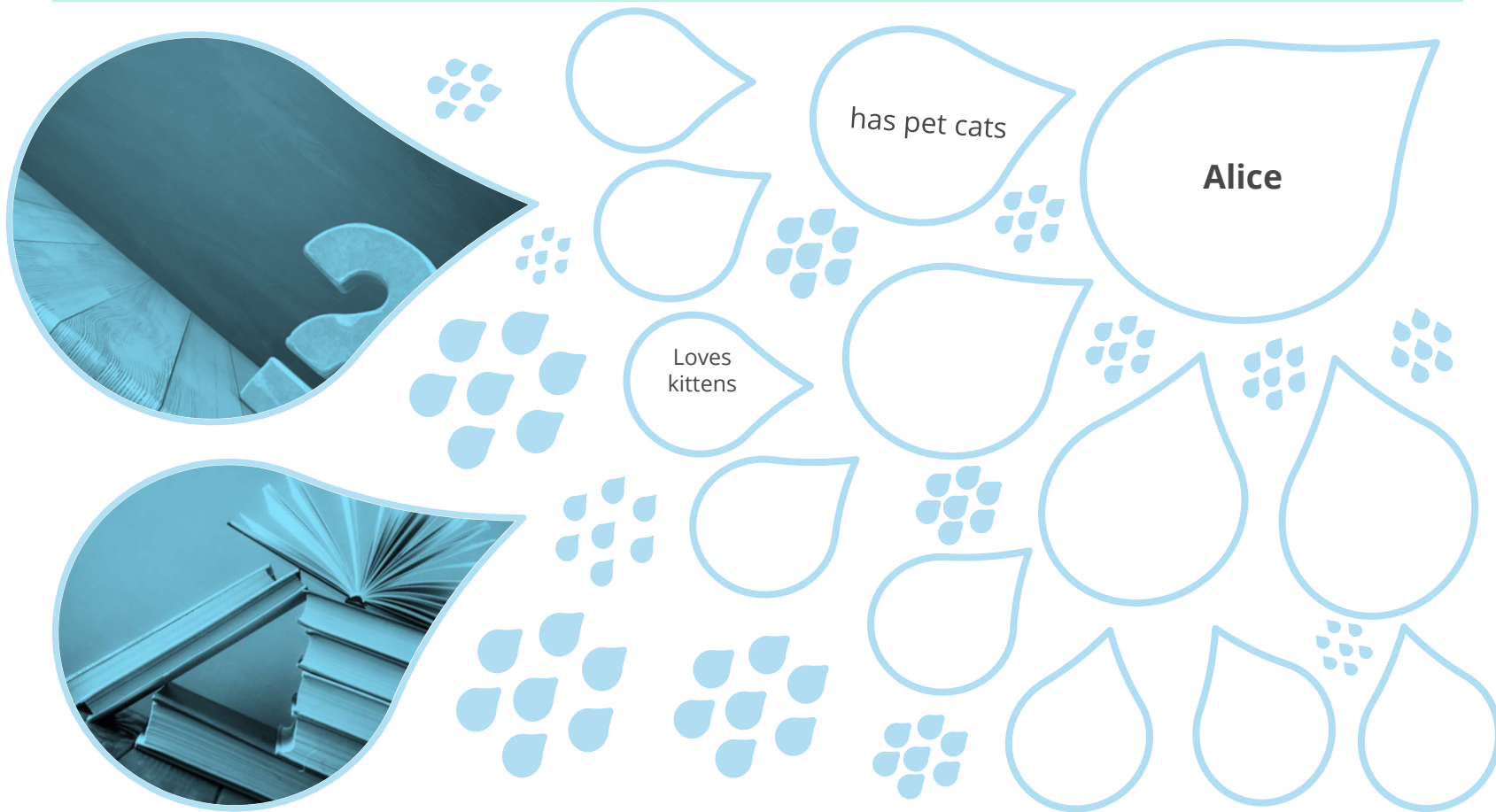
I'm going to tell  
you your faults.





## Making conclusions from the text

To infer means to form an opinion or conclusion based on some evidence. Brainstorm all the things you learn or infer about Alice from the text. An example has been provided.





Imagine the rest of the story

**What do you  
think happens  
next?**



## Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

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no

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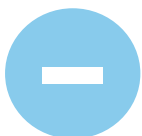
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## Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.  
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?



If you have time, go over  
the most difficult slides again



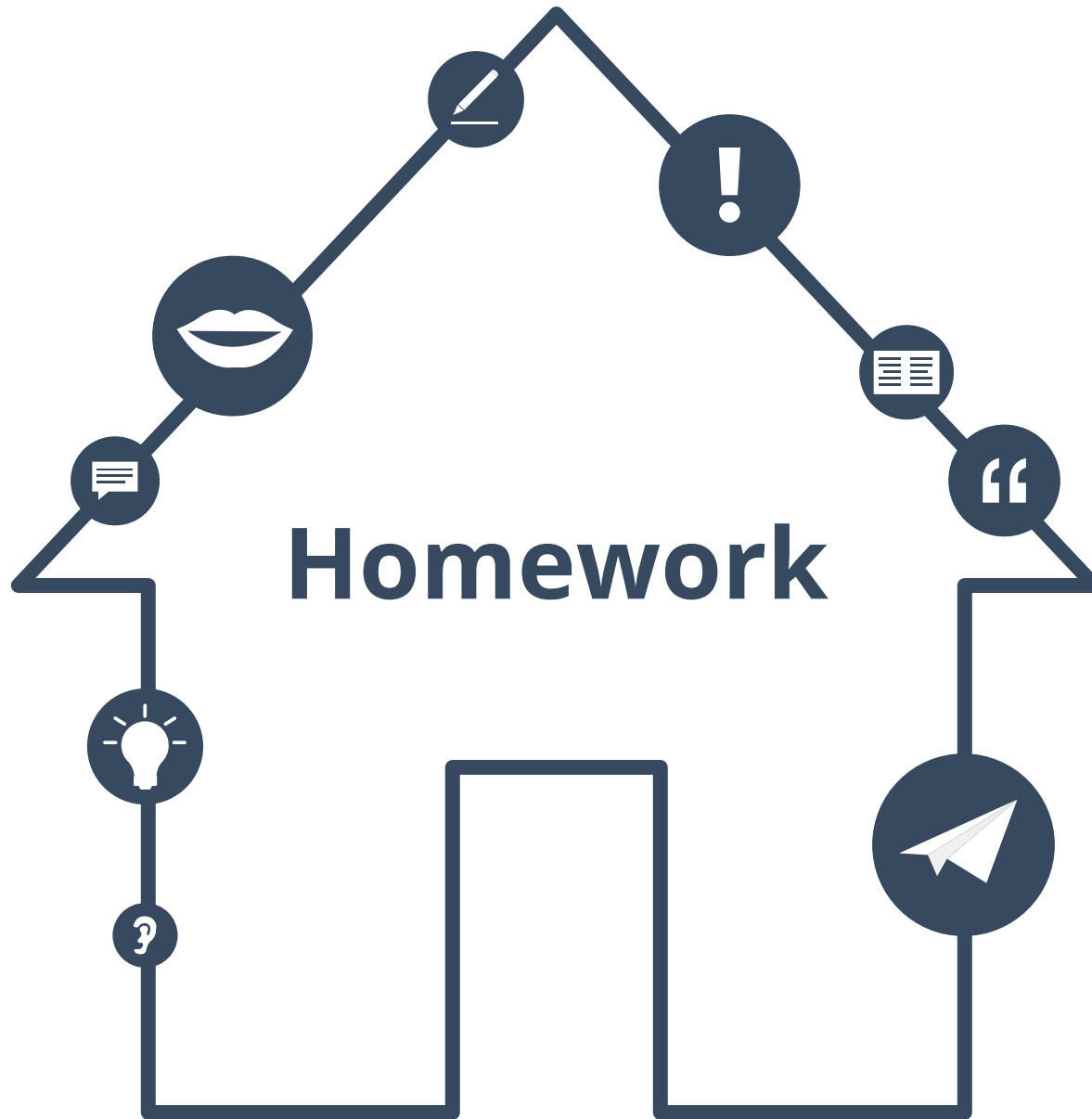
## Answer key

### Activity p. 12.

1. False. The text tells us that Dinah washes her children's faces by holding down their ears with her paw and rubbing their faces all over "the wrong way." The white kitten has been having its face washed for 15 minutes. We get the ideas that it is quite a rough and long process.
2. True
3. False. The text tells us that Alice is sitting in an armchair, half talking to herself and half asleep.
4. True

### Activity p. 13.

- There are many possible answers. Here are selection.
- Alice's actions: curled up in a chair, half sleeping, half talking to herself. She is watching her kittens. She is also trying to wind up a ball of yarn.
- Alice's personality: sleepy, has kittens as pets, very observant
- Dinah's actions: washing her children's faces
- Dinah's personality: takes good care of her kittens, keeps them clean, motherly, old
- The black kitten's actions: having a "grand game of romps" with a ball of wool, playing, getting the wool tangled
- The black kitten's personality: mischievous
- Activity p. 21
- Bonfire, cold and snowy, herself, face washed, knee





## Unscramble the sentences from the text

A

The wool

in tangles

on the hearth

was spread

C

Alice tells the kitten

sticks for the bonfire

are gathering

that boys

B

Alice says that

have taught the kittens

Dinah should

better manners

D

While Alice talks

to listen

pretends

the kitten



## Homework

**Write sentences with the following new vocabulary words**

reproachfully

manners

mischievous

wicked

pretending

entirely



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## Homework answer key

### **Activity p. 31:**

The wool was spread in tangles on the hearth.  
Alice says that Dinah should have taught the kittens better manners.  
Alice tells the kitten that boys are gathering sticks for the bonfire.  
While Alice talks the kitten pretends to listen.



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