



THE MOUSE COUNCIL

Once upon a time, there was a yard with many animals living there. The man who owned the yard took excellent care of them. They always had good food and the large stables with roofs gave them shelter from the rain and the wind. You could hear the happy cows mooing and the little horses snorting. However, the yard full of tasty food also attracted mice. They made a hideout in one of the stables and started to breed.

The owner of the yard did not like that one bit. He wanted to get rid of the mice, and so he brought a big cat to the yard one day. He didn't feed it at all and so the cat chased mice all day and ate them. The cat was a very good hunter, and so the large nest of mice soon diminished by half.

One day, the mice called a council to think of a way to protect themselves from the dangerous cat. They debated for a long time, they banged their gavel a lot, but none of their ideas were good enough for everyone. It was late in the evening when a young girl mouse shrieked: "I've got it! I know what can save us from the cat!"

The other mice turned to her and waited for her to continue.

The young mouse said: "Let's think about how the cat hunts us. First, it always watches us in silence. Sometimes we don't even know that it's there. Then it

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crouches and leaps on us and eats us. We need to come up with a way to hear the cat. Then, we will always know that it's coming, and we will run away."

There was much rejoicing and applause. All the mice were happy with this idea and they started thinking about what could alarm them to the approaching cat.

After a few moments, another mouse squeaked: "I've got it! We will tie a little bell around the cat's neck. It will ring with its every move and we will know that the sound of the bell means we need to hide fast."

This idea won over all the mice. They started squeaking with joy. They saw themselves living a great life: freedom and no fear. And who knows, maybe if the cat doesn't catch a single mouse for some time, it might even decide to move to a different yard.

But then an old mouse spoke and said: "This sounds like a good idea, but I still have a question. Who is brave enough to risk their life in order to tie the bell around the cat's neck?"

The mouse council went dead quiet because nobody wanted to answer that question.

And so, dear children, remember that a good idea only works when there's somebody to carry it out.