



Jane Cadwallader

Uncle Jack and the Meerkats

Illustrated by Gustavo Mazali



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YOUNG  READERS



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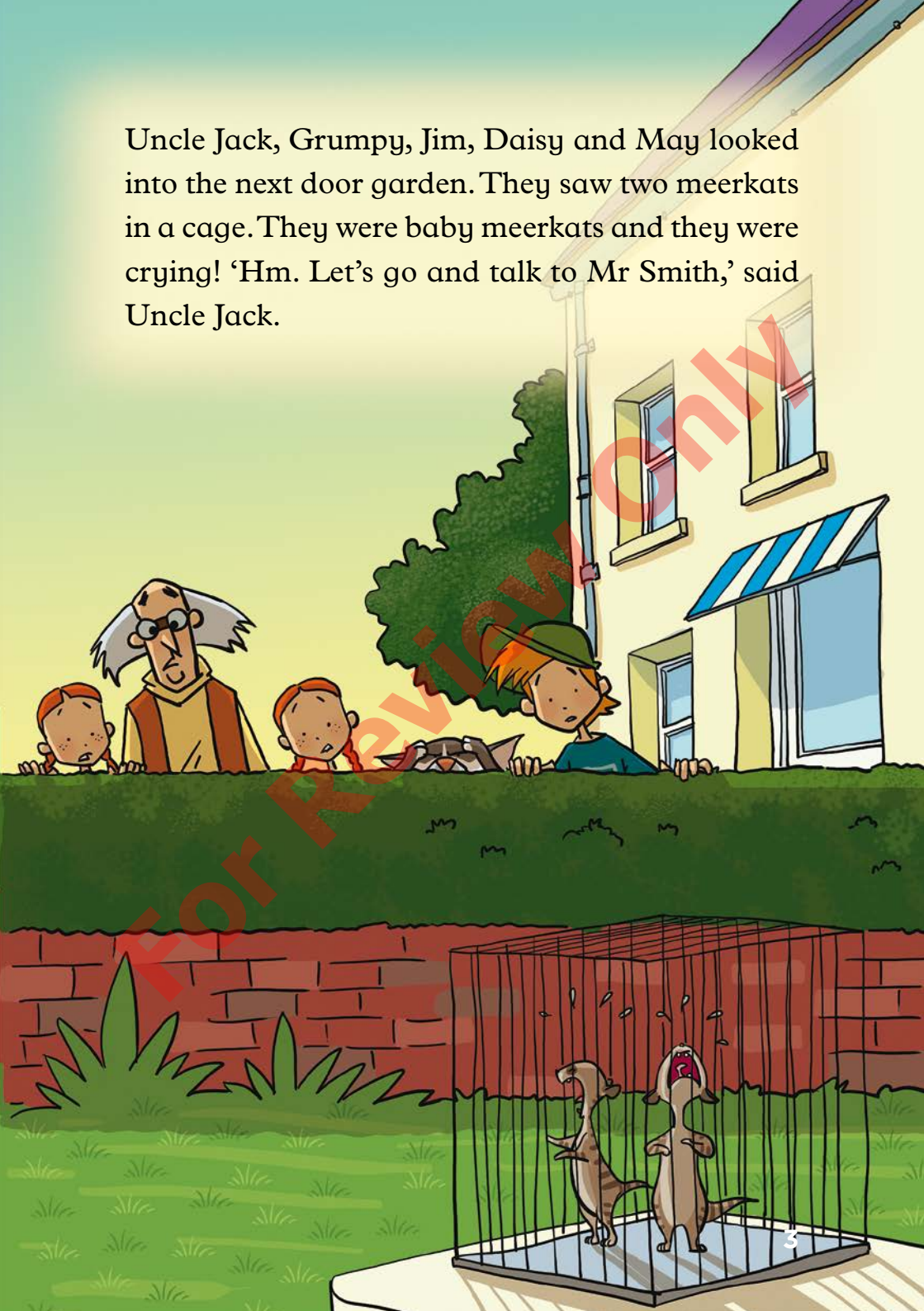
2



Uncle Jack was reading a book in the garden. Jim and his sisters, Daisy and May, were playing with a ball. Grumpy the dog began to bark. He wanted to show them something. 'What's the matter Grumpy?' asked Daisy.



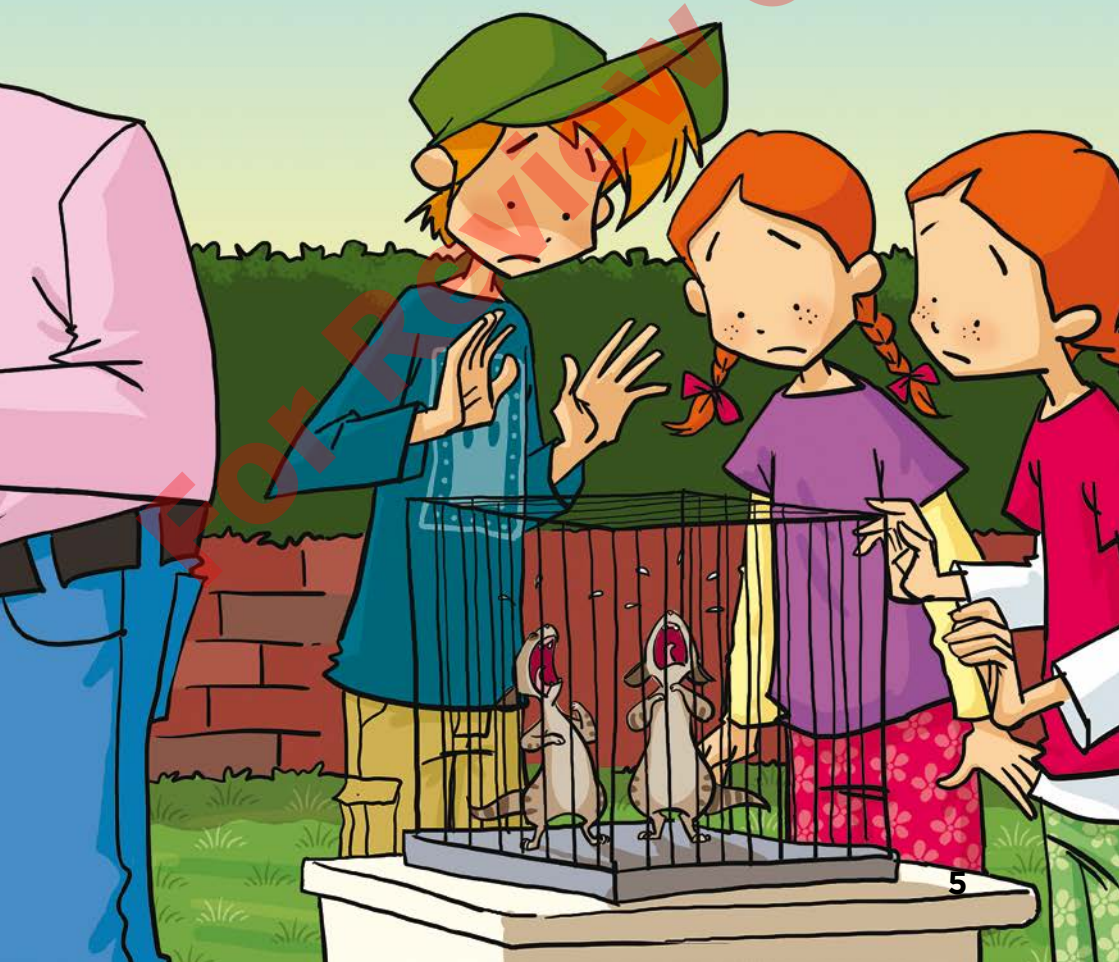
Uncle Jack, Grumpy, Jim, Daisy and May looked into the next door garden. They saw two meerkats in a cage. They were baby meerkats and they were crying! 'Hm. Let's go and talk to Mr Smith,' said Uncle Jack.



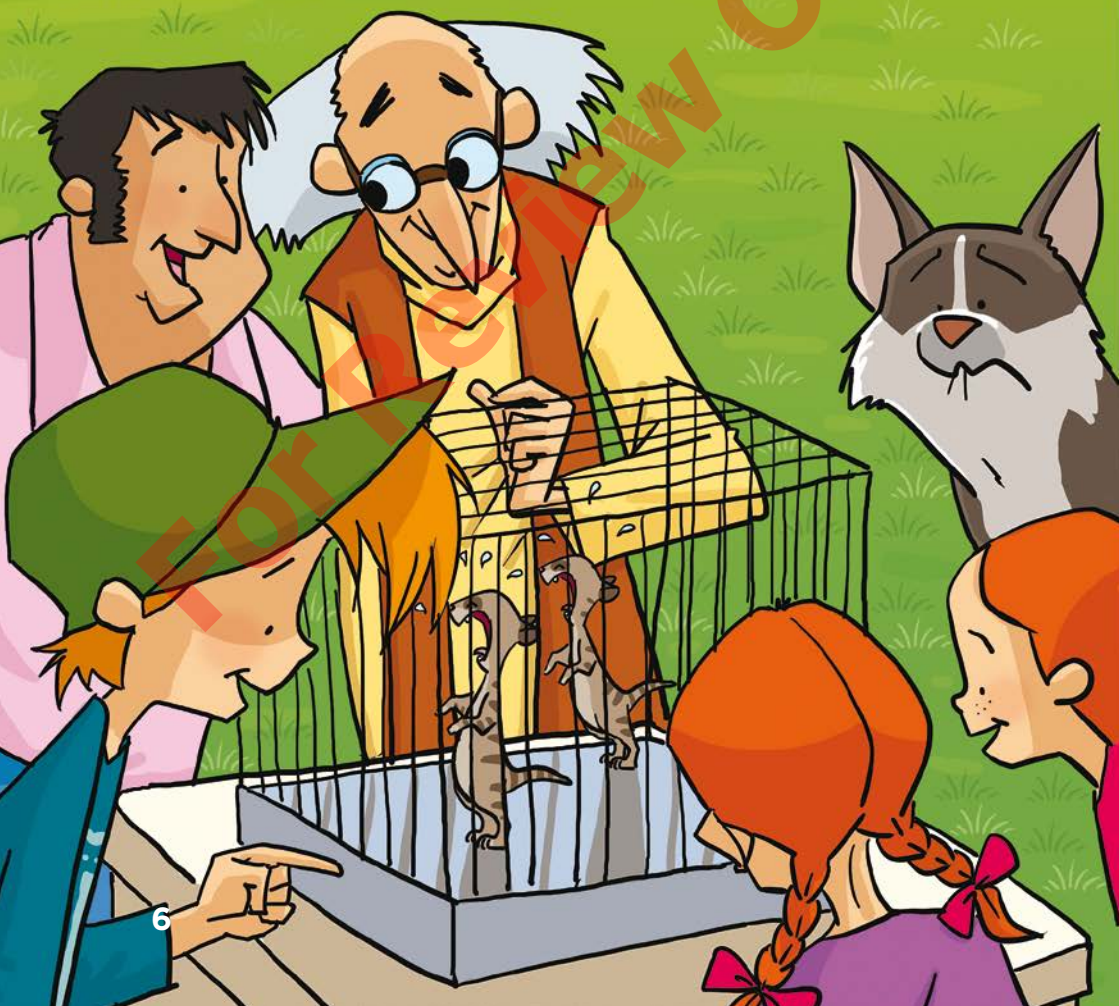
Uncle Jack and the children went to see Mr Smith who lived next door. Mr Smith said sadly, 'I bought the meerkats in a pet shop but they never stop crying!' 'Perhaps they have a toothache or a stomach-ache,' said Jim.



‘No,’ said Uncle Jack. ‘I don’t think so. Meerkats have very strong family feelings. I think they are crying for their mothers and fathers.’ ‘Oh no!’ said Daisy and May.



Jim pointed to the cage, 'Look!' he said, "Witdraai, Kalahari Desert, South Africa". It's their address! They come from the Kalahari Desert!' 'Hm. I think you're right,' said Uncle Jack. He looked at Mr Smith. 'Shall we take them home?' he asked. 'Oh, yes, please!' answered Mr Smith. 'YES!' shouted the twins.



The next day Uncle Jack put the things in the hot-air balloon. He put in some food and some blankets (it can be very cold in the desert at night). Jim went to get the meerkats but ... they weren't there! 'We must go and look for them,' said Daisy and May.



Activity Pages

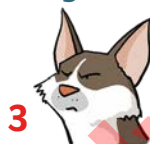
1 Who are the characters in the story?



The men
from the lorry.



from next door.



the dog.



and the twins.



The six



2 Fill the gaps to tell the story.

meerkats	meerkats	cages	desert	lorry
hot-air balloon	families	men	lions	

Uncle Jack and the children went in the hot-air balloon to look for the _____ of the _____.

When they were in the Kalahari _____ some _____ arrived in a _____. They put the meerkats into _____. Suddenly some _____ arrived too!

Uncle Jack rescued the men but first they promised never to catch _____ again.

3 Find the words. Fill the gaps in the song.

~~lerriuqs~~ takreem yad dnuora tressed

teef tar tac yalp

takreem yad yalp dnuorg

smra tressed

I'm not a squirrel or a _____.
I'm certainly not a horrible _____.
I'm a _____ and I love to _____.
In the _____ all the long _____.

Flap your _____ all _____.
Tap your _____ on the _____.

Come with me. Be a _____ and _____.
In the _____ all the long _____.

4 Match the speech bubble to the character.

WOOOOF!

I bought the meerkats in a pet shop.

It's their address!

Meerkats are wild animals.

