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KEY STAGE

2

LEVELS

3–5

English test

Spelling Test
Reilly

Teacher's version

2007

Reilly

The cat-flap clicked upward, letting in a sharp draught of cold air. Framed within the opening appeared a black face with a white nose and chin, wide yellow eyes and a set of curving white whiskers. The face stayed where it was, the eyes surveyed the room.

Bella, lying relaxed and sleepy in the armchair by the kitchen fire, turned her head at the sound. She jumped down from the chair and stood rigid, ready to see off the intruder.

The stranger returned stare for stare. His glance had taken in the two saucers of cat-food, one still scattered with untouched scraps, and the blue bowl crusted with a white ring where milk had stood for some time, left by cats who had had more than enough already.

He looked at the warm glow of the gas fire, at the armchair and at the clean white coats of the two **females**. This was a place where a cat could be comfortable, no **doubt** about that. He was **ravenously** hungry. He came wholly into the room and **approached** the saucer **cautiously**.

Bella circled round him, her fur **bristling**.

Before long Miss Betty Braithwaite's **sensible** medium- **height** heels could be heard clop-clopping along the hall **corridor**. The footsteps came nearer, the door-handle turned and she entered, a small woman with thick hair, once chestnut, now the colour of faded string, pinned off her face and neck.

As the door opened, his **proud** tail drooped, his ears went back in fear and he cowered low to the floor.

"It's all right, puss," she said. "I won't hurt you."

He **straightened**, reassured by the softness of her **voice**, and looked up into her face.

Spelling text adapted from *Reilly* by Mary Rayner, Gollancz, 1987.

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