

The Tale of Tom Kitten

by Beatrix Potter adapted by EveryReader

Adapted to Lexile Level 300





Once there were three little kittens.
Their names were Mittens, Tom Kitten, and Moppet.
They had soft fur coats.



They played on the step.
They rolled in the dust.



One day their mother was busy.
Her name was Mrs. Tabitha Twitchit.



She would have friends for tea.

She brought the kittens inside.

She had to wash them and dress them first.



First she washed their faces.

This kitten is Moppet.



Then she brushed their fur.

This kitten is Mittens.



Then she combed their tails and whiskers.
This kitten is Tom Kitten.



Tom did not behave.
He scratched.



Mrs. Tabitha put clean aprons and collars on Moppet and Mittens.

Then she opened a big drawer.



She took out fancy clothes for Tom.

Tom was very fat and had grown.



His buttons popped off.

His mother sewed them on again.



When the three kittens were ready, Mrs. Tabitha sent them to the garden.

She wanted them out of the way while she made hot buttered toast.



She said, “Keep your clothes clean, children. Walk on your back legs. Stay away from the dirty ash pile, from Sally Henny Penny, from the pig pen, and from the Puddle-Ducks.”



Moppet and Mittens walked down the path.
They did not walk well.



They stepped on their aprons.
They fell on their noses.



When they stood up, there were green smears.



Moppet said, “Let us climb the rock pile and sit on the garden wall.”

They turned their aprons around.



They skipped and jumped up.
Moppet's white collar fell into the road.



Tom could not jump in pants on two legs.
He went up the rocks little by little.



He broke the ferns.

Buttons fell off to the left and right.



When he got to the top, his clothes were all messed up.



Moppet and Mittens tried to fix him.

Tom's hat fell off.



The rest of the buttons burst.



Then they heard pit pat, paddle pat.
Three Puddle-Ducks came along the hard road.



They marched in a line.

Pit pat, paddle pat.

Pit pat, waddle pat.



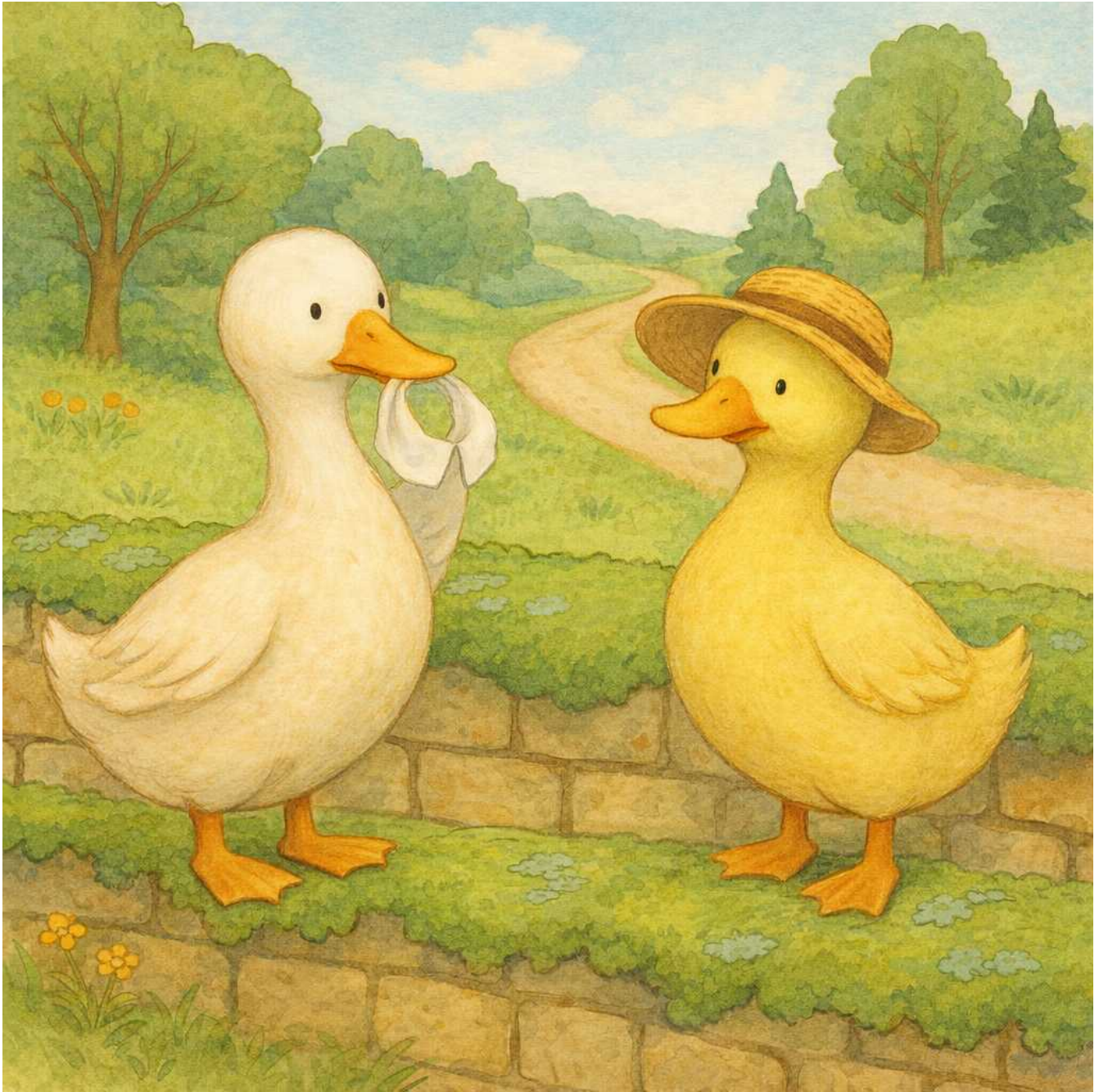
The ducks stopped.
They stood in a row.



They looked up at the kittens.

Their eyes were small.

They looked very surprised.



Two ducks were Rebecca and Jemima Puddle-Duck.

They picked up the hat and the collar.



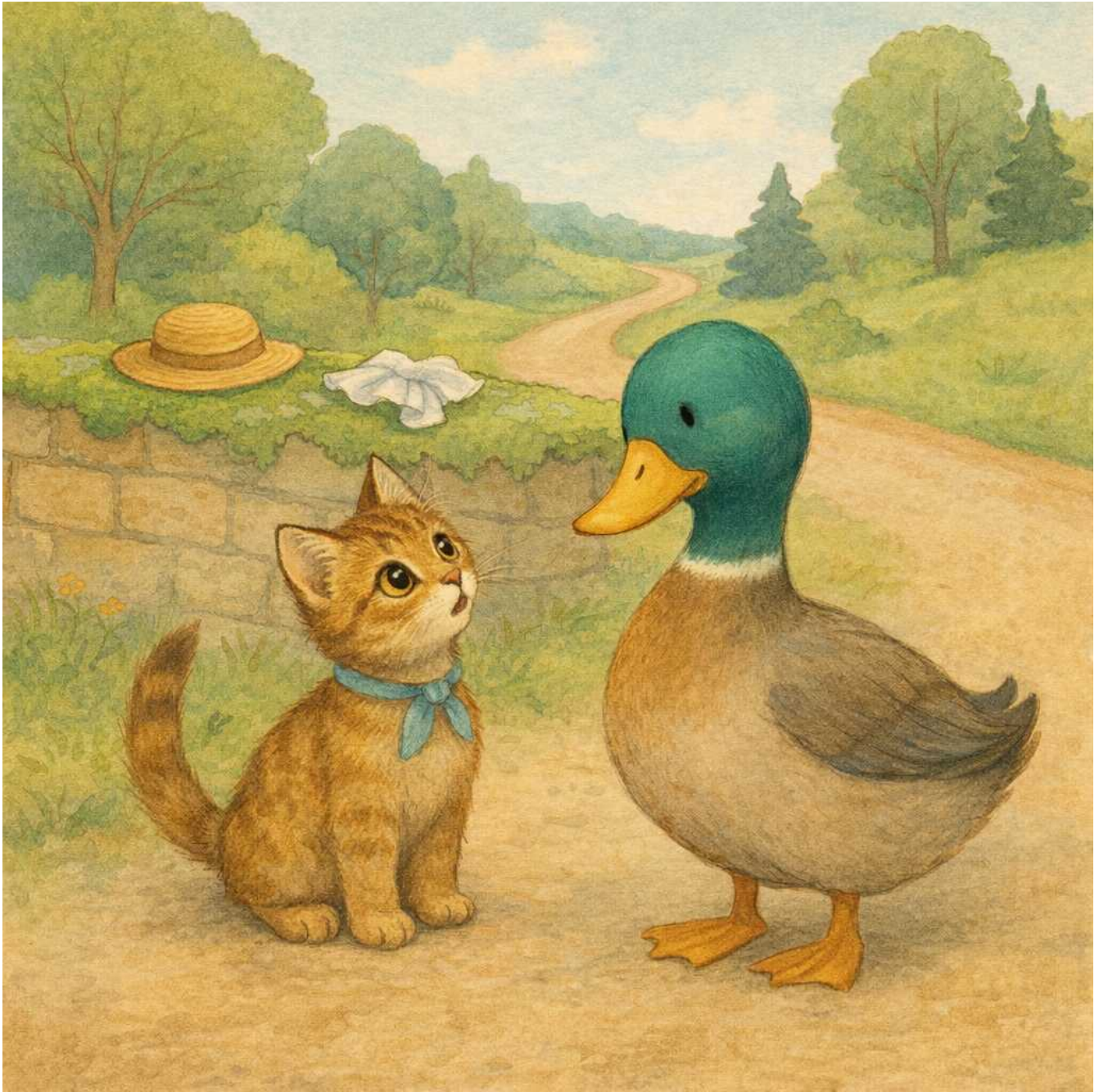
They put them on.



Mittens laughed so hard she fell off the wall.
Moppet and Tom climbed down after her.



On the way down, the aprons came off.
All the rest of Tom's clothes came off, too.



“Come, Mr. Drake Puddle-Duck,” said Moppet.

“Please help us dress Tom. Please button him up.”



Mr. Drake moved slowly and sideways.
He picked up all the clothes.



But he put them on himself.
They fit him even worse than on Tom.



He said, “It is a very fine morning!”

Then he, Jemima, and Rebecca went up the road.



Pit pat, paddle pat.

Pit pat, waddle pat.



Then Mrs. Tabitha Twitchit came down the garden.
She found her kittens on the wall with no clothes on.



She pulled them down.

She smacked them.



She took them back to the house.

She said, “My friends will be here soon. You are not fit to be seen. I am upset.”



She sent them upstairs.

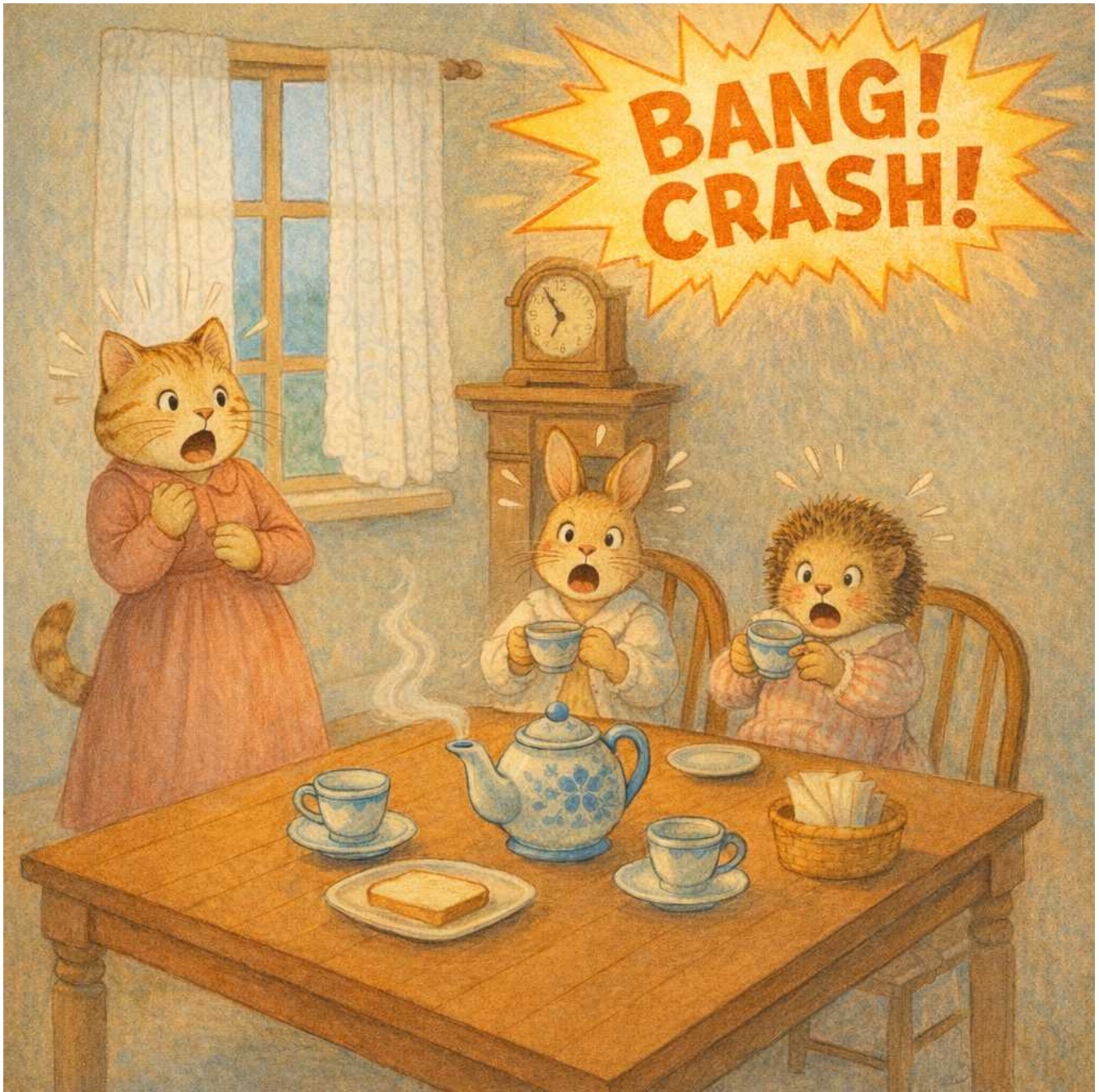
I am sorry to say she told her friends the kittens were in bed with the measles.



That was not true.



In fact, they were not in bed.
Not at all.



There were very loud and strange sounds above the tea party.

The noise spoiled the quiet of the tea.



I think I will need a bigger book one day.
Then I can tell you more about Tom Kitten.



As for the Puddle-Ducks, they went into a pond.
The clothes came right off, because there were no
buttons.



Mr. Drake Puddle-Duck, and Jemima, and Rebecca have been looking for those clothes ever since.