

Through the Garden

培生  
英语阅读

穿过

花园之门

*Through the Garden Door*

◆ 芭芭拉·里夫斯 著

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# Through the Garden Door

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## Chapter 1

# The Chase Begins

When winter came, the snow started to fall. Day after day, icy winds blew and the snow came down. It **piled up** along the streets in dirty heaps.

Miko and Jason liked the snow at first. It was exciting to see the city covered in a frosty white blanket. But soon the snow made the city look **messy**. Jason and Miko soon became tired of snow.





After school one day, Jason and Miko were hurrying along the sidewalk in the dim light of the cold, gray afternoon. They were wet and **chilly**.

"Do you know where I'd like to be right now?" asked Jason. "I'd like to be on a spaceship." He climbed on top of a snow pile. "I'd **head for** a faraway planet where it never snows."

"Well, you're on Earth," said Miko. "And it snows a lot in our part of the country. So let's go home. I'm cold."

Jason jumped down. He threw a fistful of snow at Miko. She **ducked** as it flew over her head, **spraying** her with sugary snow. She looked up and laughed.

"We're in for at least two more months of winter, Jason," she yelled. "Get used to it!"





Miko expected Jason to growl and chase her with another **handful** of snow. But he didn't answer. He was staring over Miko's shoulder at something behind her.

"Jason, what's going on? What do you see?" asked Miko. She turned and looked.

"I think it's a cat," Jason said, pointing to a fuzzy shape ahead of them. "Or maybe it's a monkey."

"Oh, sure!" said Miko, **peering** ahead and trying to see what Jason was pointing to.

"No, look, Miko. It's right over there. It's not like any other cat I've ever seen. So you tell me what it is."



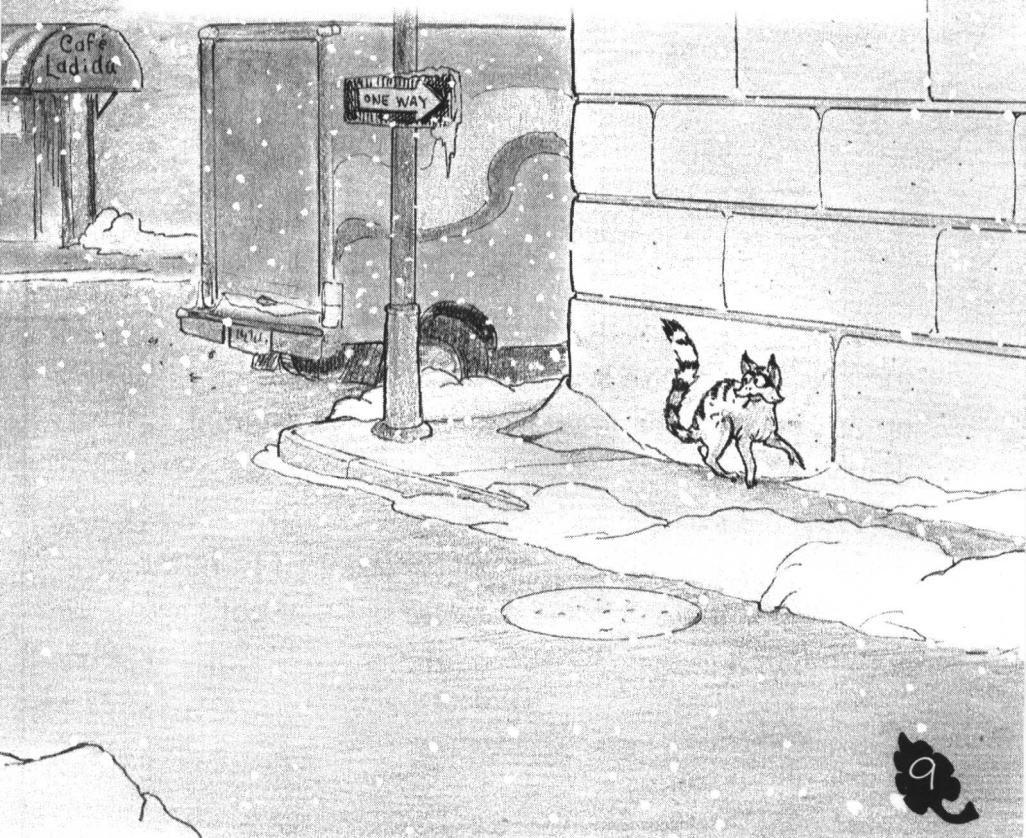
Miko looked across the street. Something furry was moving along the wall of the building. She couldn't see the animal clearly. It just looked fuzzy, and it had a long, **striped** tail.

"What . . . ?" Miko began.

Jason motioned for Miko to follow. Very slowly, he moved toward the **creature**.

"Jason, be careful," Miko whispered. "We don't know what it is. It might be dangerous." Jason kept moving.

"It's probably just a cat," Miko thought. She was **curious** to find out, too.





When they got within a few feet of the animal, it **froze** in its tracks. It looked up at them with huge eyes. It was like no animal they knew.

"Maybe it's lost," said Miko.

"Yeah," said Jason. "It probably escaped from the zoo. Maybe it's someone's **exotic** pet that got loose somehow. It looks cold and scared."



Suddenly the animal turned. It started moving quickly down the sidewalk.

"Let's follow it!" said Jason. "Maybe we can catch it. We can put an ad in the paper. There might even be a **reward!**"

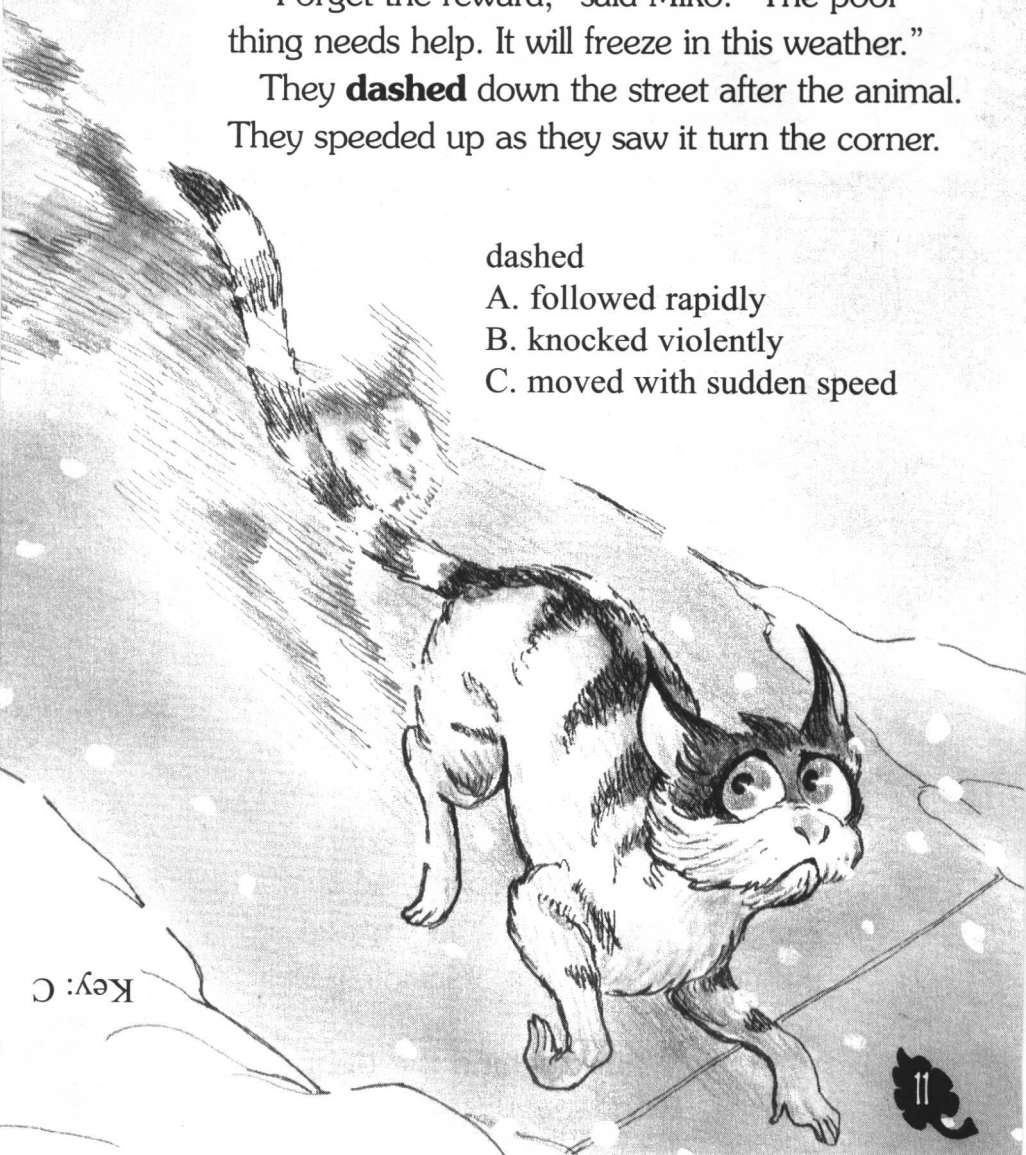
"Forget the reward," said Miko. "The poor thing needs help. It will freeze in this weather."

They **dashed** down the street after the animal. They speeded up as they saw it turn the corner.

dashed

- A. followed rapidly
- B. knocked violently
- C. moved with sudden speed

Key: C





The animal slowed as it came near a **plain** metal door set in the side of a big brick office building. The door was open a **crack**. A thin stream of light came from the opening. Without stopping, the animal rushed up to the door and **slipped** through. With a **flick** of its tail, it was gone!

What's behind the door, a wonderland or a terrible place?



## Chapter 2

# The Open Door

Miko and Jason ran to the door and stopped. "That's funny," said Jason. "That door is never open."

"Should we go in?" Miko asked Jason.

Jason looked at the door nervously and almost said no. Then he **grinned**.

"Let's go!" said Jason and he began to open the door.







As Jason opened the door, a bright light **flooded** the sidewalk. It was so bright, he couldn't see.

"Wow!" he said.

"What is it?" asked Miko. She followed him through the opening.

As they stood together, the door closed behind them with a loud clank. In front of them was an **amazing** sight.



They were in a beautiful garden. The air felt soft and warm. A light **breeze** tickled their noses. The ground under their feet was springy like a thick carpet. Bright flowers grew everywhere. They were odd shapes and strange colors. Bees **hummed** busily around many of the flowers. Birds were singing in the trees.

Jason gave a low whistle. "There's no snow here," he said.



"Where are we?" Miko asked in a whisper.

"I have no idea," said Jason. "But I know this is not an **ordinary** garden."

Miko reached down to touch a pink flower. The flower moved, **brushing** against Miko's hand.

"Please, don't," said a low voice.

