



# A Purr-fect Surprise in the Garden

**I**t was a beautiful morning in the Daisy Flower Garden. A soft breeze blew through the trees. Honeybees hummed. Butterflies danced from flower to flower. Tiny birds sang early-morning songs in their cozy nests.

Tula, the tulip, stretched her red petals toward the golden sun. "Our garden is home to so many critters," she said. "It's so nice that we share our garden with so many living things."

**Come Out, Come Out . . .  
Wherever You Are!**

Lots of critters live in the Daisy Flower Garden.  
How many can you find?



“Yes,” agreed Mari, the marigold. “Birds, squirrels, and chipmunks are busy in the trees. And wiggling worms live in our soil. From top to bottom, our garden is a wonderful place!”

Vi, the violet, started to giggle.

“What is it, Vi?” Tula asked.

“That butterfly tickled me when she stopped to sip my nectar,” Vi said. “Taking care of our garden critters is so much fun!”

Just then, the flower friends heard a strange sound. **“MEOW-W-W-W!”**

“What could that be?” asked Vi.

Was it a chipmunk? No! A squirrel? No!

“Look!” said Tula. “It’s a sweet little cat.”

Vi peeked at the cat. It *was* little. But Vi wasn’t so sure it was sweet. It was loud!

“I like to be very careful when there’s a new critter around,” Vi said.

Tula looked closer at the cat. “I think she’s trying to tell us something. Maybe she’s thirsty.”

“I’ve seen many cats on my travels,” said Mari.





"Big or small, they all need the same things we do to stay healthy and safe. Let's get this cat a sip of water from our pond."

"That's a great idea," said Tula. "We can have a sip, too. We don't want to get droopy!"

Just then, Robin, the red robin, flew by. "Cats need exercise, too," she chirped. "I can help with that." She flew this way and that.

**Sing Out and Smile!**

Robins can sing when breathing in or breathing out. So they can sing long, cheerful songs without stopping. How long can you sing without stopping?

The cat followed, running and jumping playfully. Soon a dazzling butterfly caught the cat's eye . . . jump, jump, bump! The cat ran after the butterfly. All around the garden they went.

The butterfly flew. The cat jumped and bumped!

The cat was so busy playing, she didn't notice the butterfly was headed straight for the pond! Would this cat know how to swim? Tula raced to the pond. She stopped just in front of the cat.

"Stay," Tula said in a firm but gentle voice. The cat rubbed against Tula, with a grateful purr. Tula smiled.



“Tula,” said Vi, “you reached the pond just in time. That was fast thinking.”

“And brave thinking, too,” said Mari.

The cat purred again. It stretched and yawned. Then it curled up on the grass.

“This cat looks sleepy,” said Tula. “Maybe she’d like to take a **catnap**.”

Tula spread her petals to make a shady spot for the cat to rest in. The cat purred as the flowers took turns petting her.



A **CATNAP** is a short nap. A catnap can make you feel rested and refreshed.



“Sweet dreams,” they whispered.

After some time, the cat awoke. She stretched and scampered out of the garden.

“I hope she’ll visit again,” said Tula. “I’m proud of how we cared for her. Let’s promise to care for every critter in our garden.”

“Now that sounds like a **purrr**-fect idea!” laughed Mari.

“**Cheer-i-up! Cheer-i-o!**” sang Robin, the red robin.