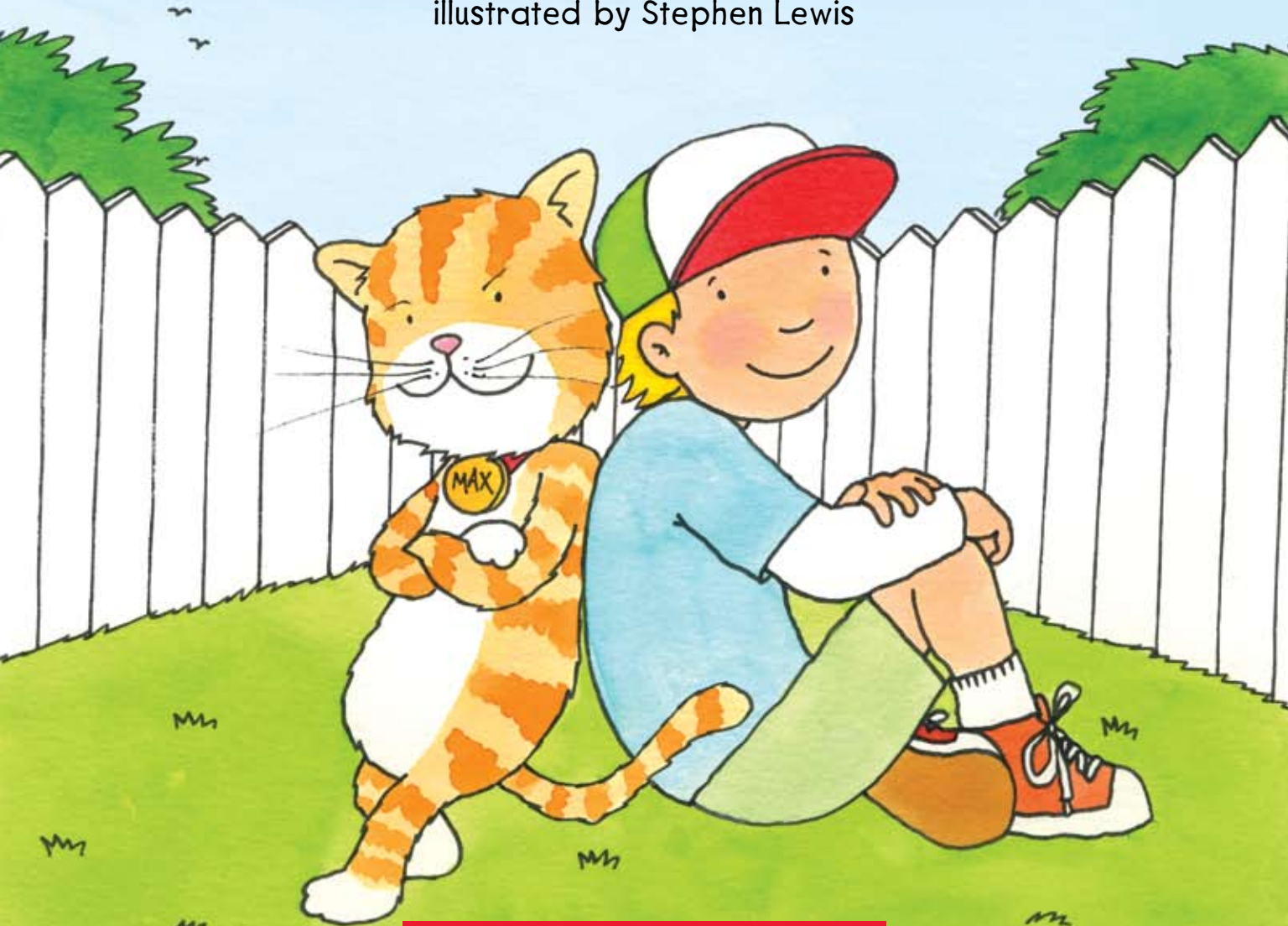


Phonics Tales!™

short a

# That Cat Max

by Liza Charlesworth  
illustrated by Stephen Lewis



 SCHOLASTIC



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SCHOLASTIC INC.

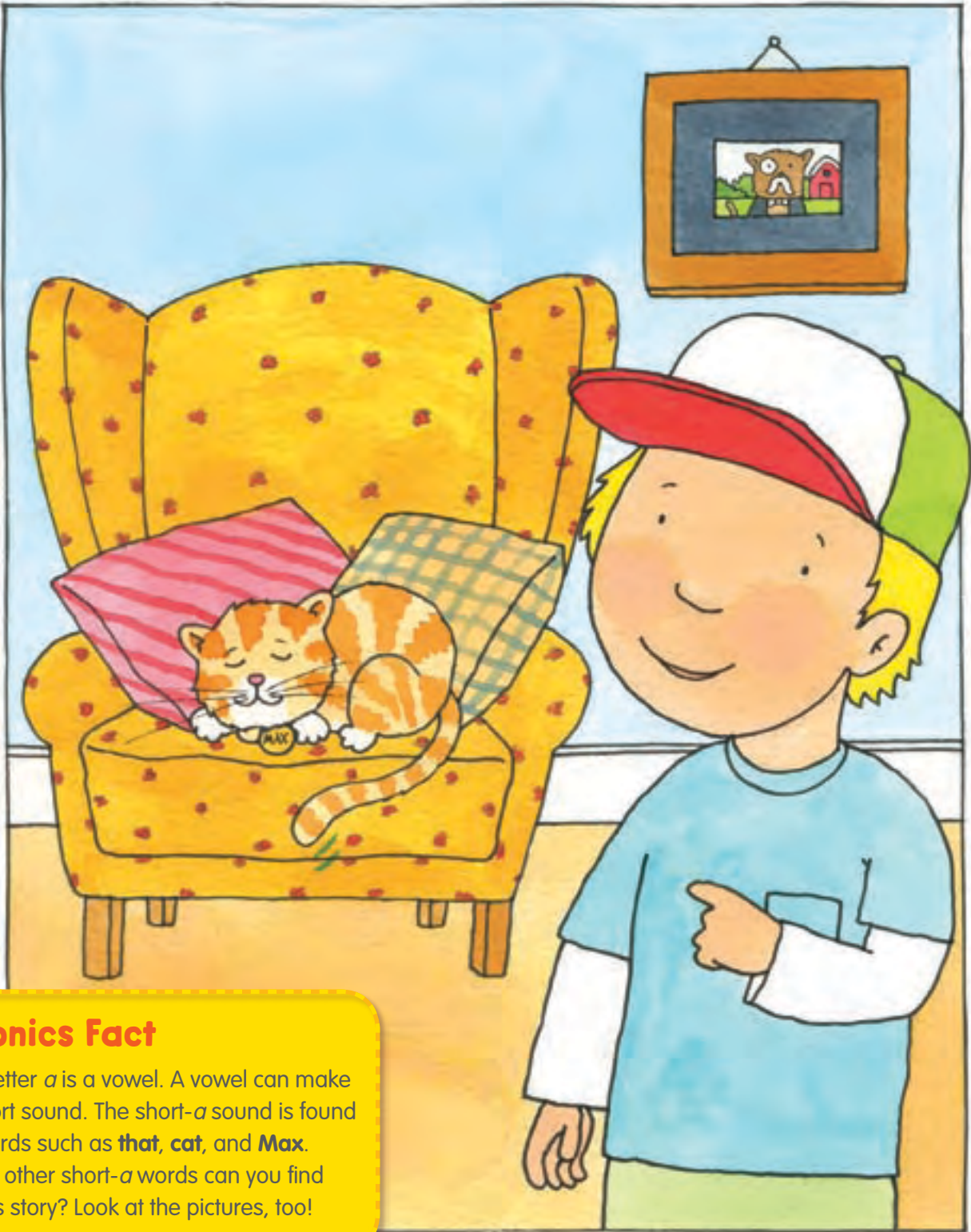
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### Phonics Fact

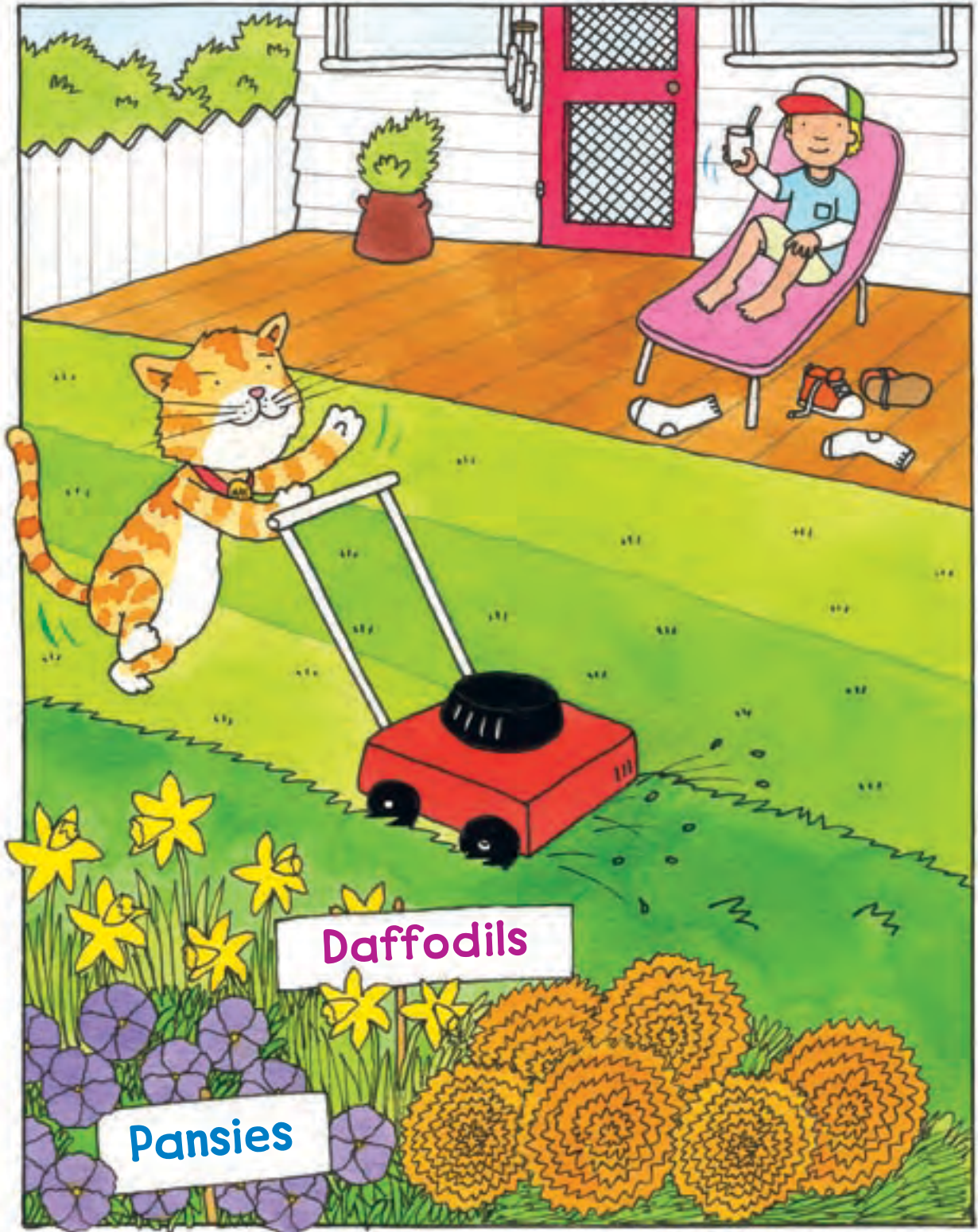
The letter *a* is a vowel. A vowel can make a short sound. The short-*a* sound is found in words such as **that**, **cat**, and **Max**.

What other short-*a* words can you find in this story? Look at the pictures, too!

I am a fan of that cat Max. Why?



Max can play catch.



Max can cut the grass.



**Max can chat with Sandy Blat about her brand-new tan hat.**



**Max can do crafts. He made that fancy basket.**

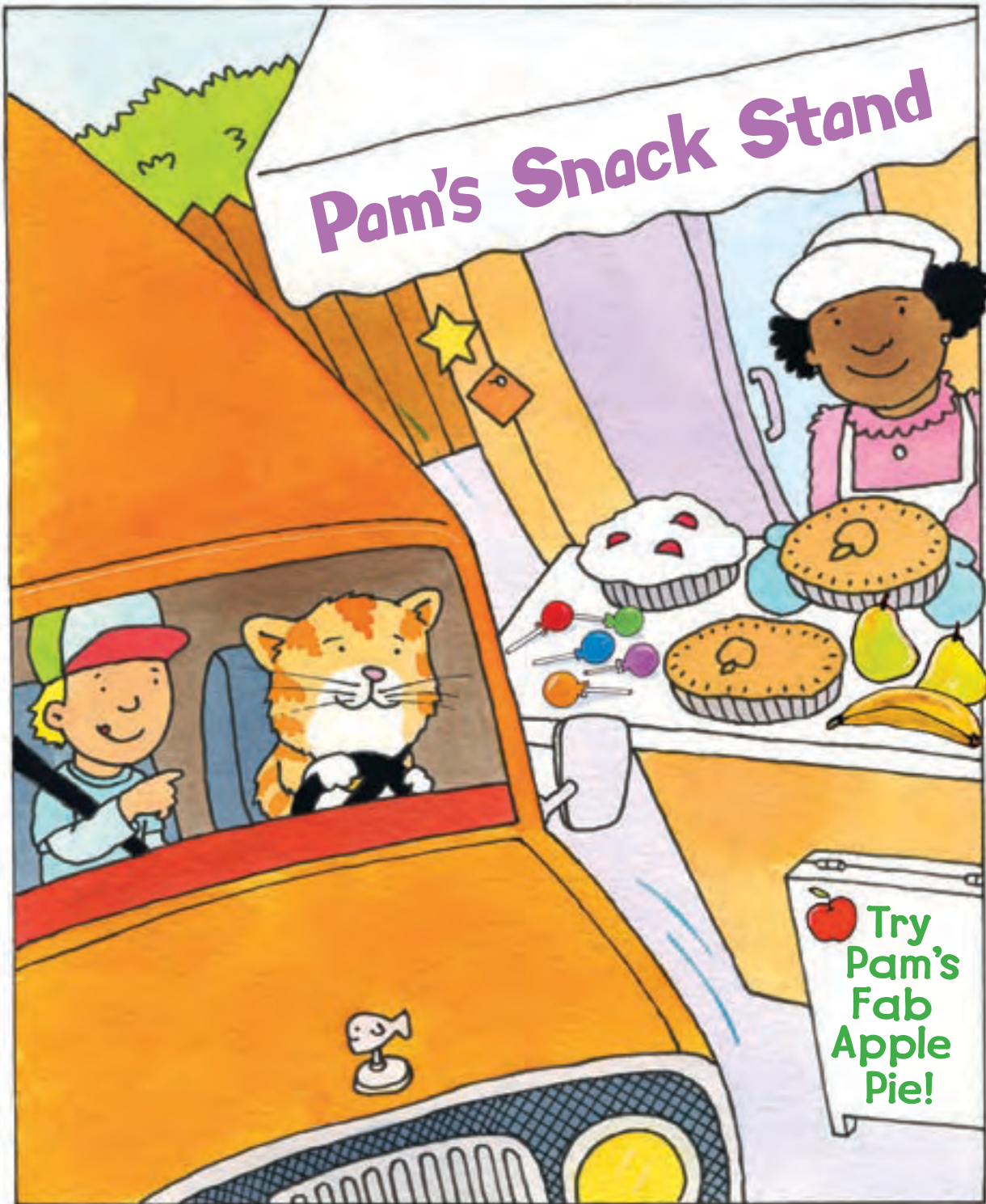




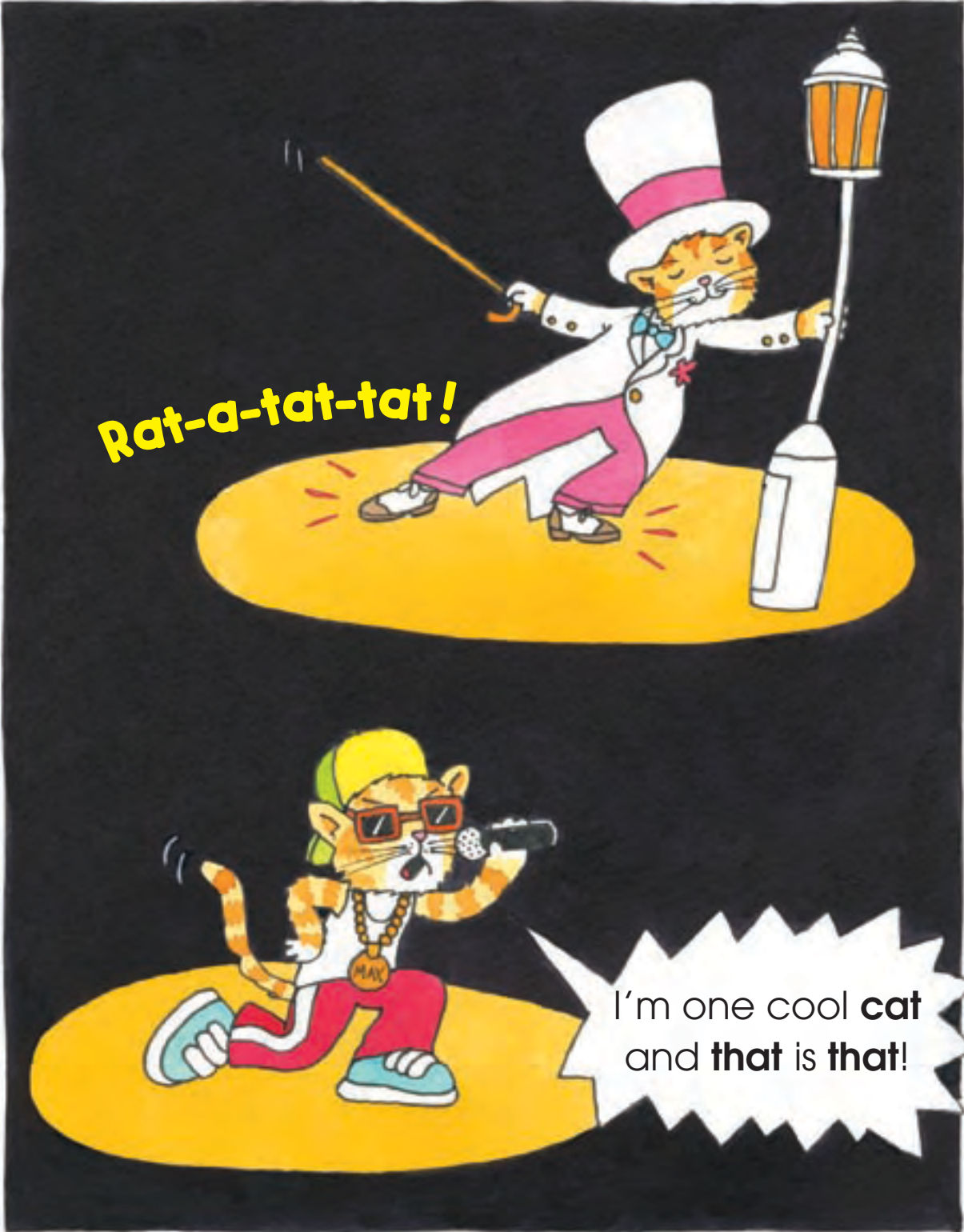
**Max can do math! He adds and subtracts super fast!**



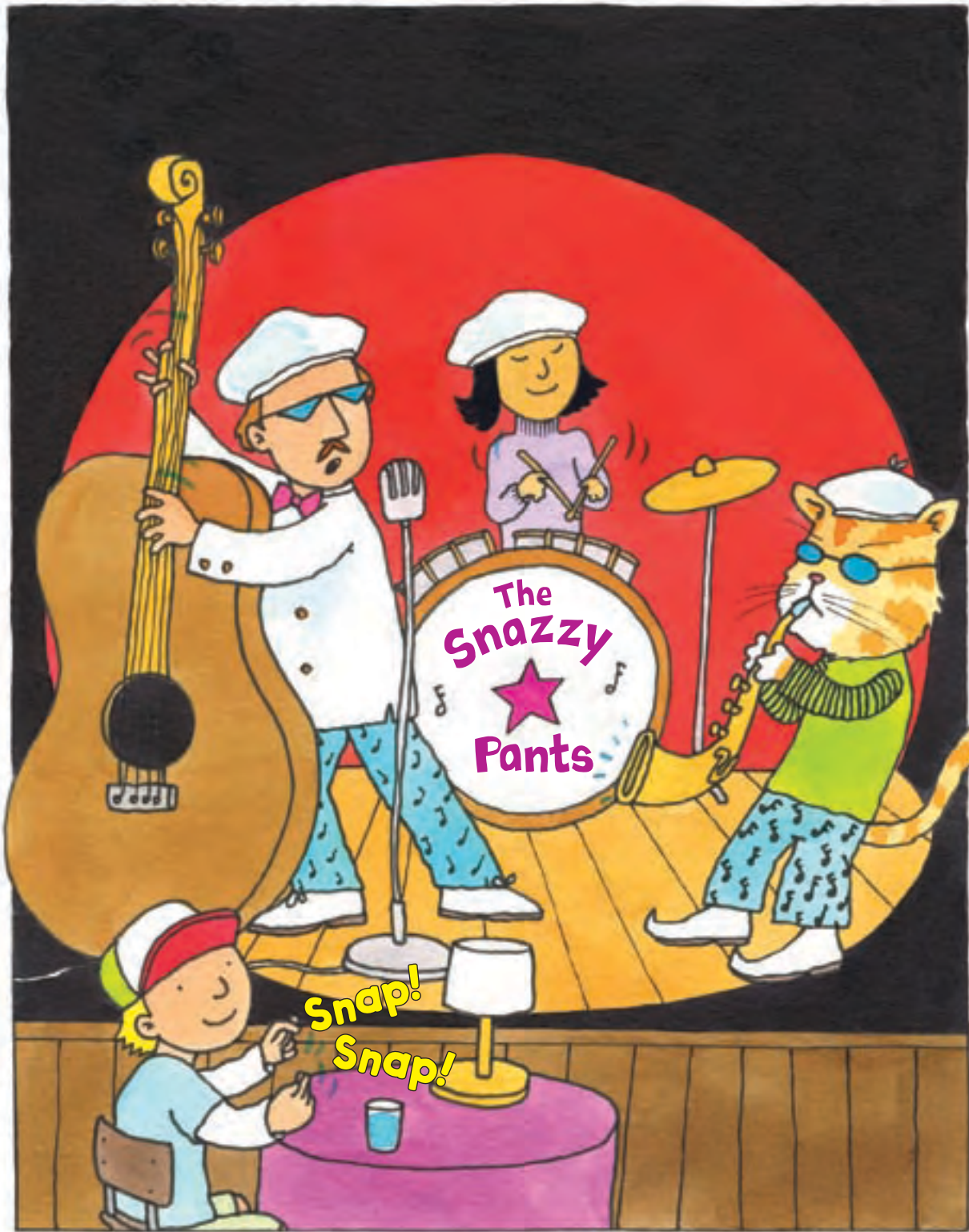
**Max can cook ham and mashed yams in a little black pan.**



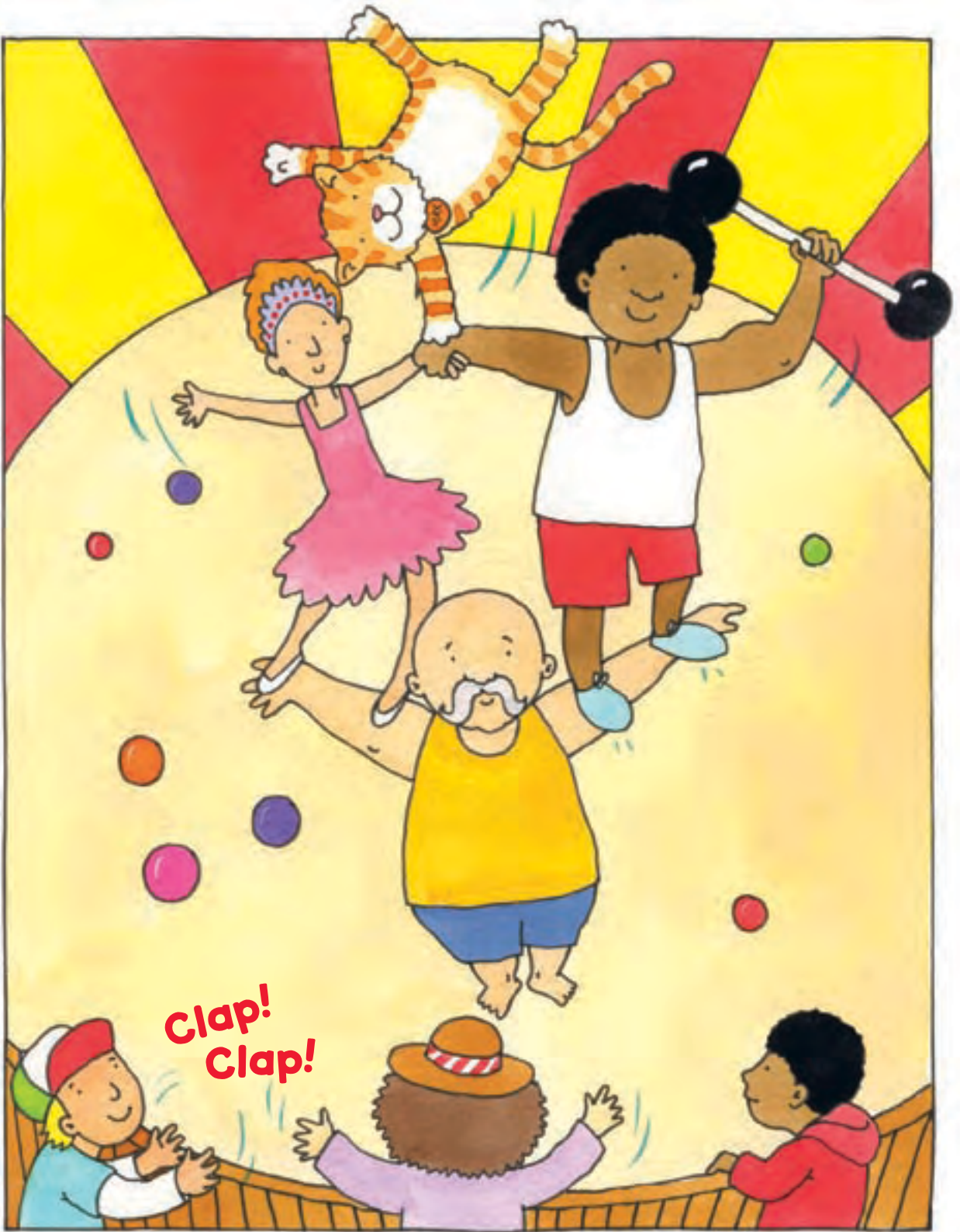
**Max** can drive the **van** to the **snack stand**.  
The **apple** pie there is **grand!**



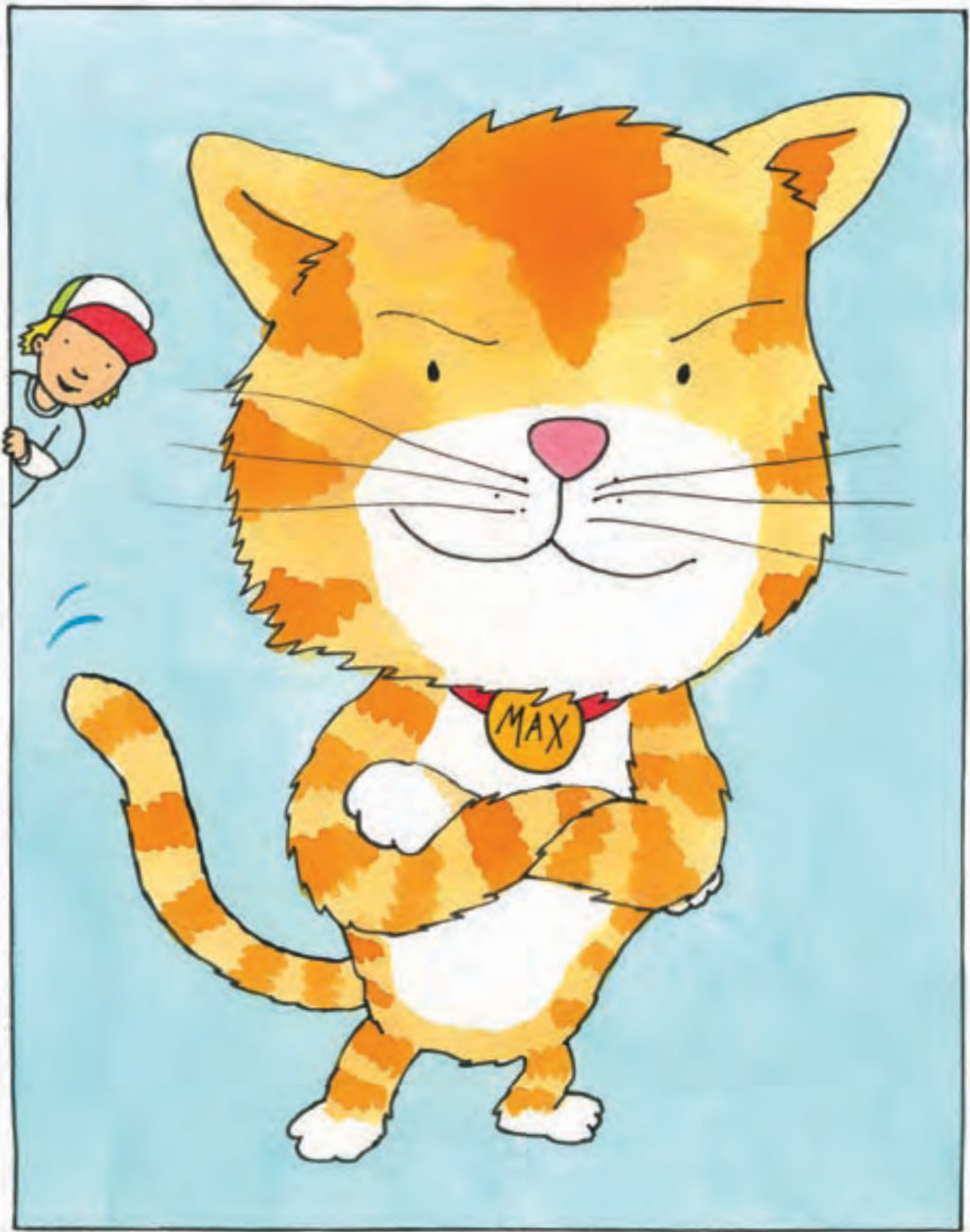
Max has talent! He can tap and rap.



Max can also play **sax** in my **dad's** jazz band.



**Max can even act like an acrobat!**



But the best thing **Max can** do...



... is **nap** on my **lap**. **Man**, I love **that cat Max**!



# Short-a Riddles

Listen to the riddles. Then match each riddle with the right short-a word from the box.

## Word Box

fast      grass      cat      tap      jam  
nap      acrobat      hat      can      subtract

- 1 This pet says, "Meow!"
- 2 It is the opposite of *slow*.
- 3 This is a lot like jelly.
- 4 It is the opposite of *can't*.
- 5 Sleepy babies do this in a crib.
- 6 You put this on your head to keep warm.
- 7 It is green and grows in backyards.
- 8 A person who does gymnastics is called this.
- 9 It is the opposite of *add*.
- 10 A kind of dancing that makes a lot of noise.



# Short-a Cheer

Hooray for short *a*, the best sound around!

Let's holler short-*a* words all over town!

There's **map** and **plant** and **rap** and **cat**.

There's **pan** and **band** and **stamp** and **hat**.

There's **man** and **grass** and **jazz** and **tap**.

There's **act** and **fast** and **snap** and **clap**.

Short *a*, short *a*, give a great cheer,

For the **happiest** sound that you ever will hear!



**Make a list of other short-*a* words. Then use them in your cheer.**