

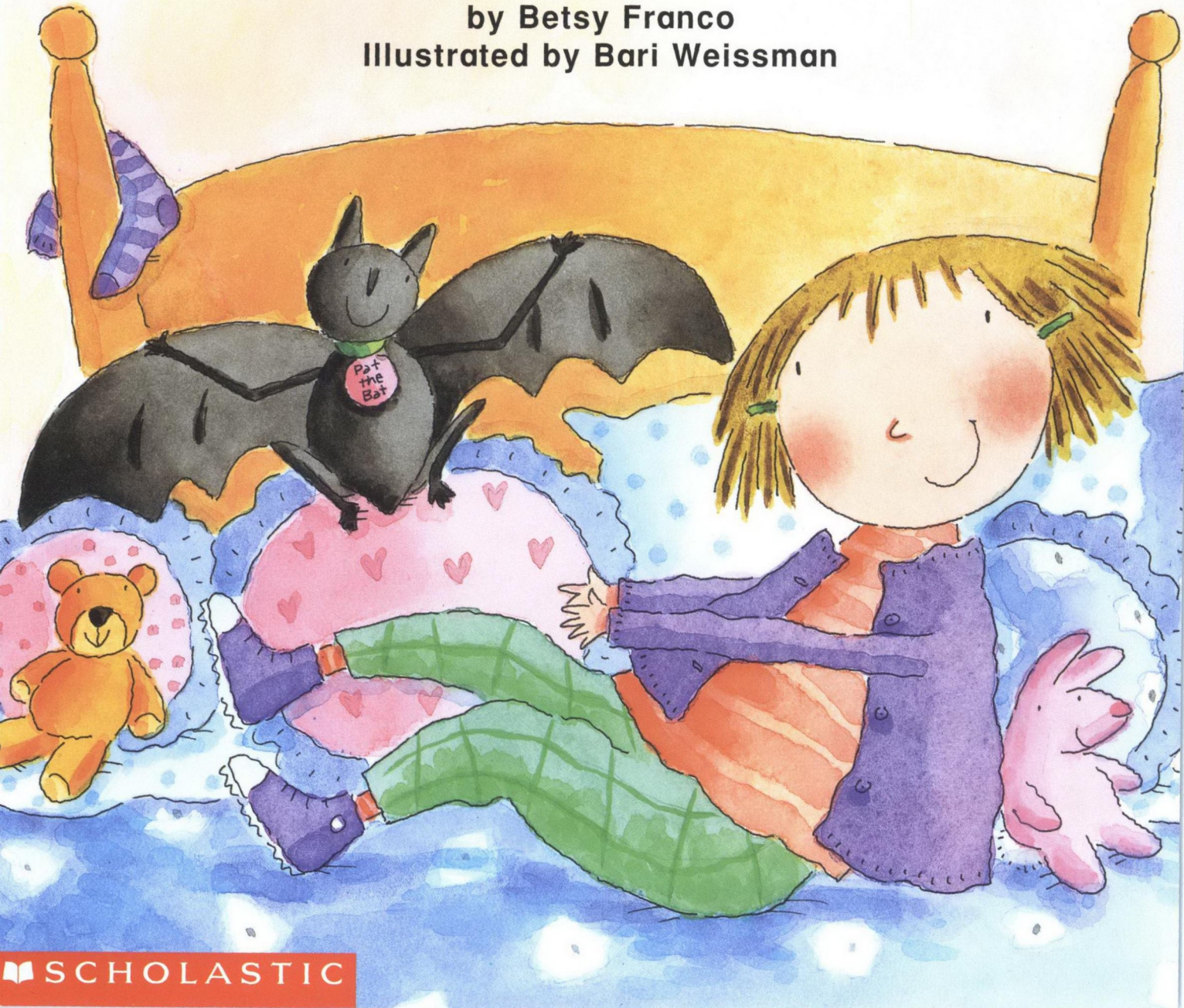
WORD FAMILY TALES™



-at

A Bat Named Pat

by Betsy Franco
Illustrated by Bari Weissman



For my sister Hari,
who always wears a “hat”



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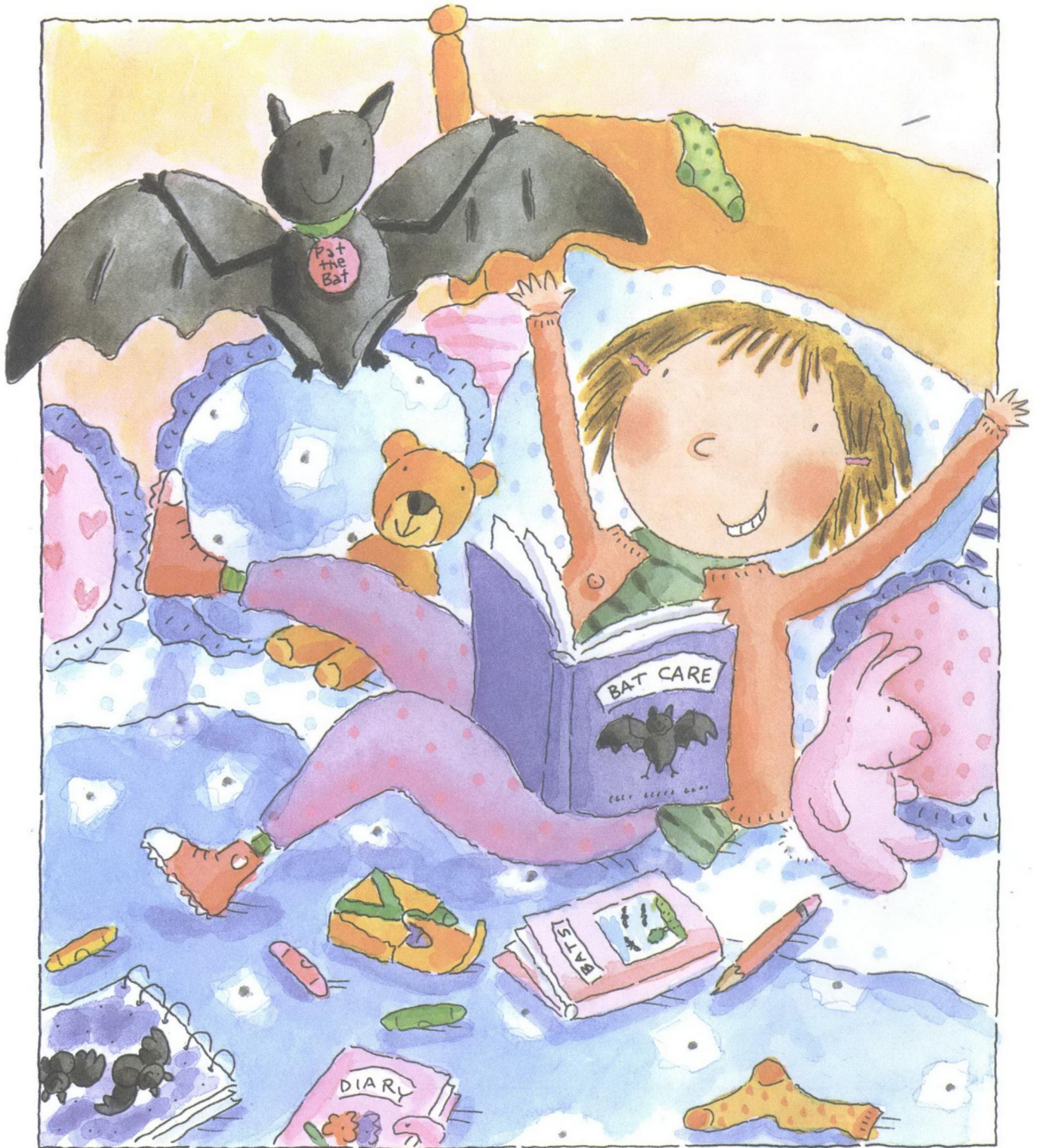




My mother and I had a nice long chat about getting a pet like a dog or a cat.



But I told her, “I REALLY want a bat—
not a fish or a bird or a dog or a cat.”



If I had a bat, I would name her Pat.
Her collar would say, "Pat the Bat."



I'd make her some supper—
two spiders, one gnat,
and all sorts of spooky bugs like that.



I'd pet her little head—pat, pat, pat.
I'd sing lullabies as she sat on her mat.



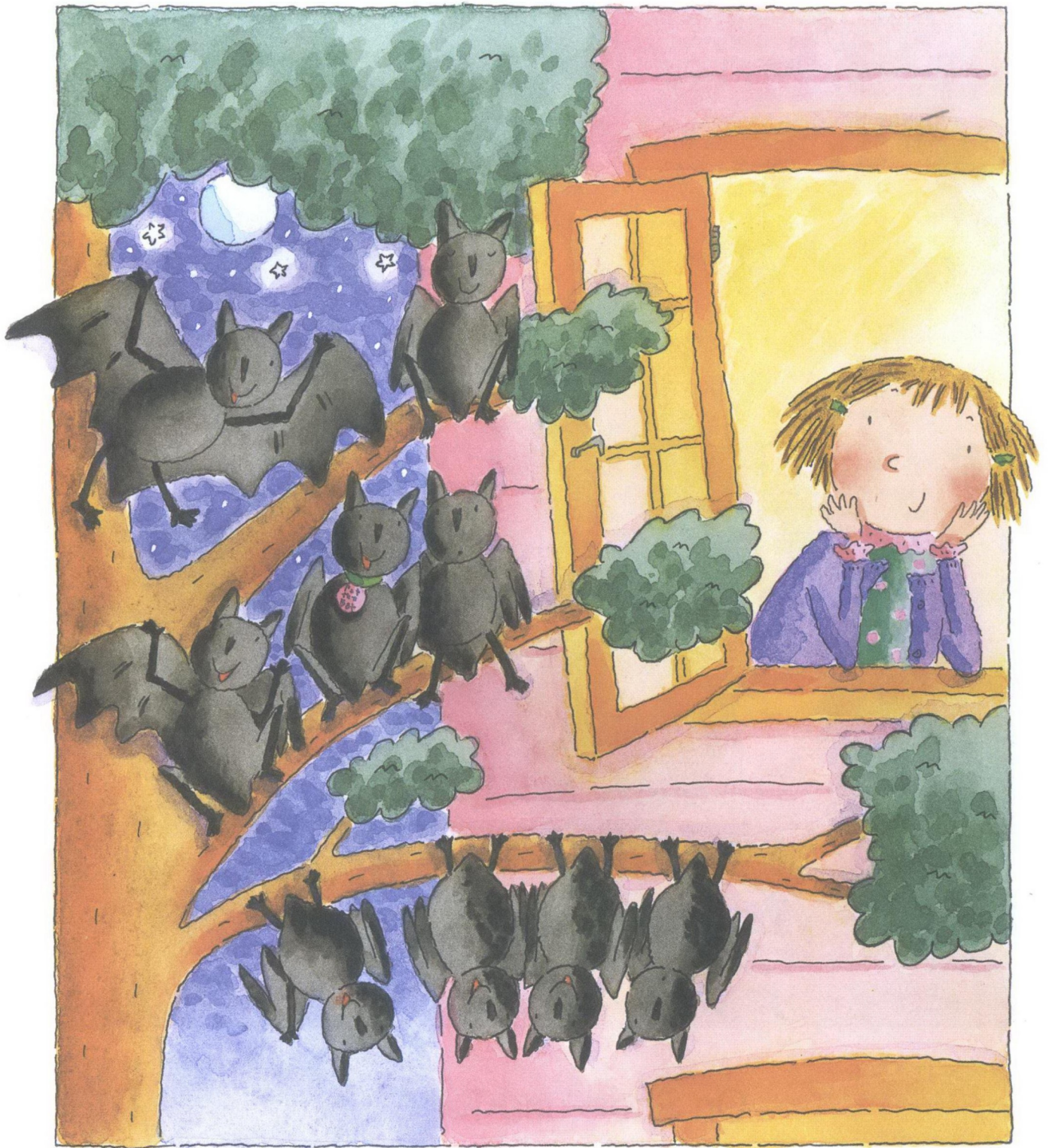
She'd sleep all day
with her wings folded flat—
I would always know
just where she was at!



But when the moon got round and fat,
she'd leave our bedroom habitat...



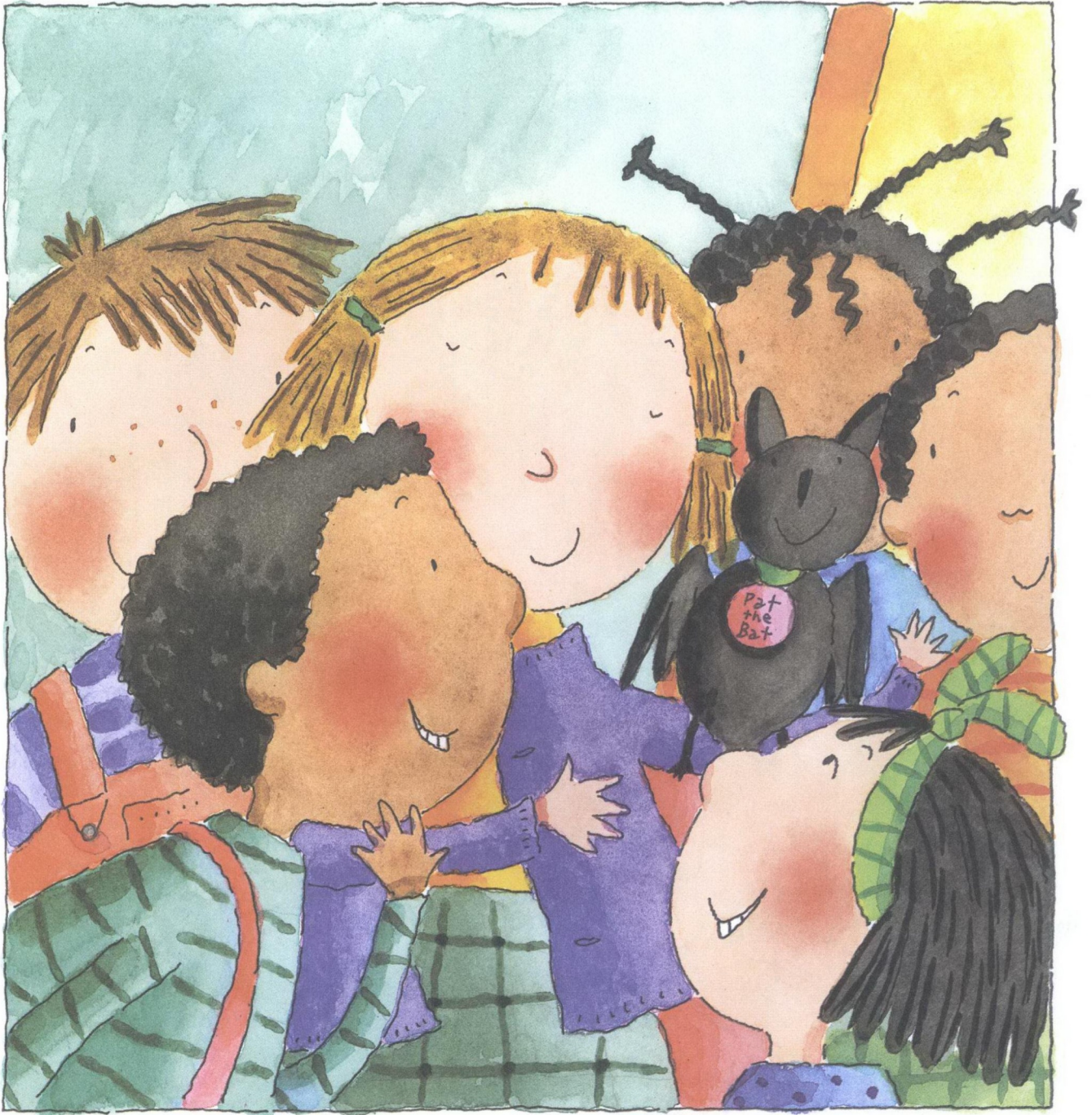
...and swoop out the window,
just like that—
to meet her pals,
a nice bunch of bats.



They'd flutter around like acrobats,
then sit in my tree for bat chitchats.



On Show-and-Tell Day,
I'd wear a tall hat,
and on my shoulder,
there'd be Pat!



At first some kids
might want her to scat,
but after a while,
they'd start to love Pat.



I REALLY hate to be a brat,
but I want a bat,
and that is that!



Try as I might, Mom said no to the bat.
So I'd like you to meet
my new cat...named Pat!



-at

Word Family Riddles

Listen to the riddle sentences. Add the right letter or letters to the -at sound to finish each one.

- 1 When my kitten grows up she will be a ___at.
- 2 When it's cold outside I wear gloves, a scarf, and a ___at.
- 3 I saw a very big mouse. I think it must have been a ___at!
- 4 My cat eats so much that she is growing rather ___at.
- 5 The car could not move because the tire was ___at.





- 6 This is my high chair from when I was a baby. It's where I always ___at.
- 7 My aunt calls on the phone each night so she and Mom can ___at.
- 8 I know my baseball mitt is in the yard, but I still can't find my ___at.
- 9 The tiny bug buzzing in my ear is called a ___at.
- 10 Please wipe your feet on the ___at.

Now make up some new riddle sentences using -at



-at Cheer

Give a great holler, a cheer, a yell

For all of the words that we can spell

With an A and a T that make the sound **-at**,

You'll find it in **mat** and **cat** and **bat**.

Two little letters, that's all that we need

To make a whole family of words to read!










Make a list
of other **-at**
words. Then
use them in
the cheer!

Reading Tips

-at

Here are some quick and fun ways to use this story to help children learn the word family -at.

-  Explain to children that you are going to read a story that has many words with the -at sound, made by the letters A and T. All these words belong to a group called a word family.
-  Ask children to find the -at word ending at the top of the front cover. Review aloud with children the sound these two letters make together. Can they find two words in the title with the -at sound?
-  Flip over the book and read the story summary on the back cover. Ask children to point out the words they hear with the -at sound. Explain that the story you are about to read includes many more words that end in -at. Can they help you find them?
-  Read aloud the story once for pleasure and enjoy the whimsical illustrations. Then reread the book, emphasizing the -at word ending in the appropriate words. Ask children to listen closely and identify all the words that end in -at (they might raise their hand or clap when they hear one, or you might choose a volunteer to point to the word on the page). As they do so, make a list on chart paper of all the -at words.
-  Write each of the words from your list on an unlined index card. Use a different color for -at than the rest of the word. Read each word on the cards with children. On another reading of the story, distribute the cards to children and have them hold up their card as their word is read.
-  Pages 14–15 of the book feature 10 riddles with answers that require a word ending in -at. Read each riddle aloud and have children volunteer answers.
-  Read aloud the cheer on page 16 several times, with lots of energy. Invite children to join you in reciting the cheer when they feel ready (you might even choose a “cheerleader”).

Other words in the -at family:

at	muskrat
mat	tomcat
rat	wildcat
sat	wombat
spat	democrat
splat	diplomat
vat	laundromat
combat	pussycat
doormat	thermostat

-at

Who wouldn't want a bat named Pat?

She's the best pet ever—and that is that!

This “batty” tale of friendship
will really make you giggle!



WORD FAMILY TALES™ are humorous read-aloud stories created to build early phonics skills by teaching children to recognize “families” of words that share the same spelling pattern. This key reading strategy helps kids decode new words with ease—and become stronger readers, writers, and spellers. Set learners on the path to literacy success with these rib-tickling tales—one for each of the top 25 word families!

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