

The Life of

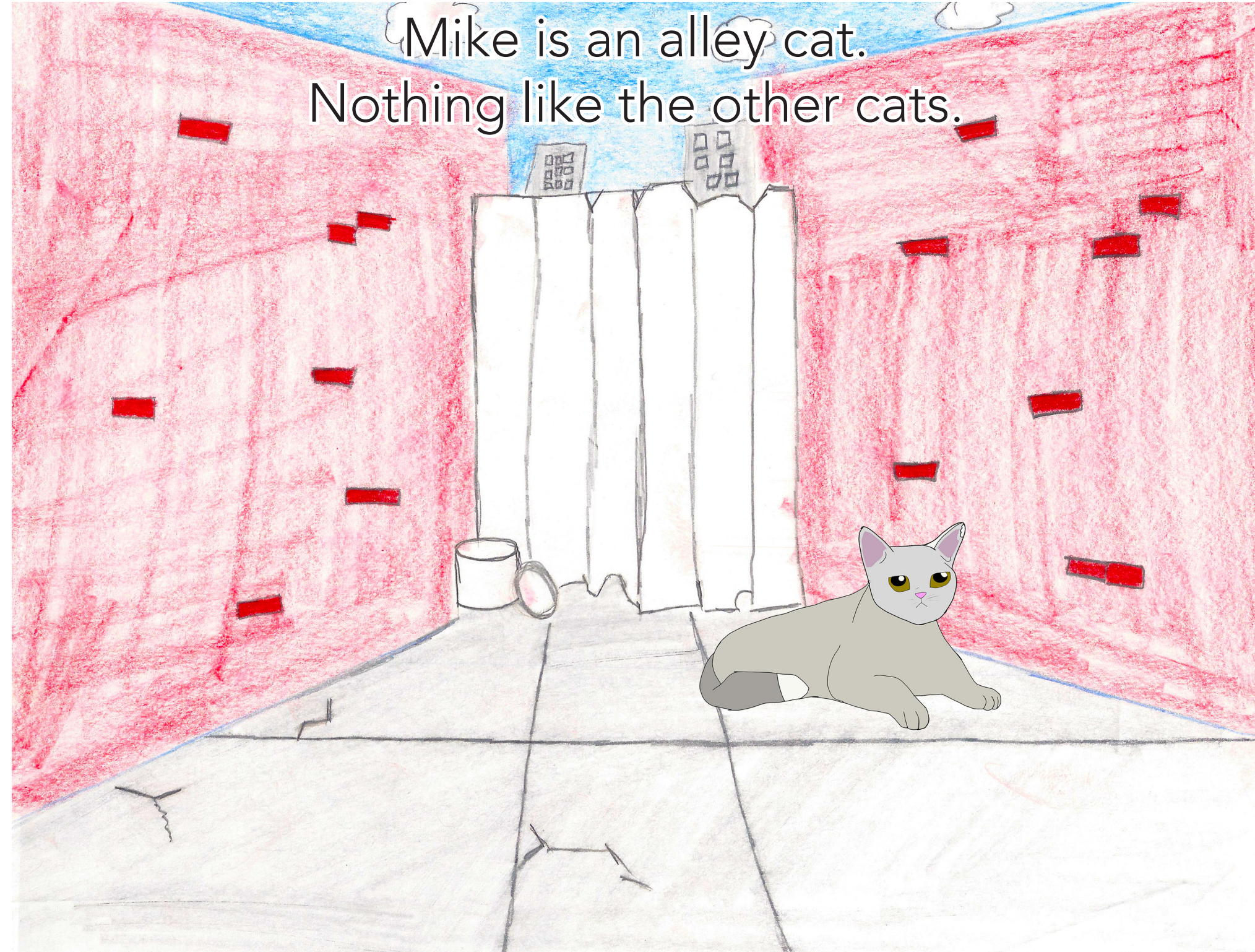
Mike the Alley Cat

There is a cat, and his name is Mike.



Mike lives in a very fancy town,
but he's the complete opposite.

Mike is an alley cat.
Nothing like the other cats.



Tyler Yarn, a nice fluffy white cat, notices that Mike is less fluffy than he is, and starts to make fun of him



"Hey you gross street cat, why are you here?"

"My owner brought me here"

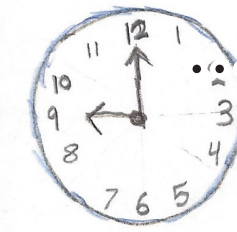


"No, you're one of those gross alley cats that bring in bugs and mud."

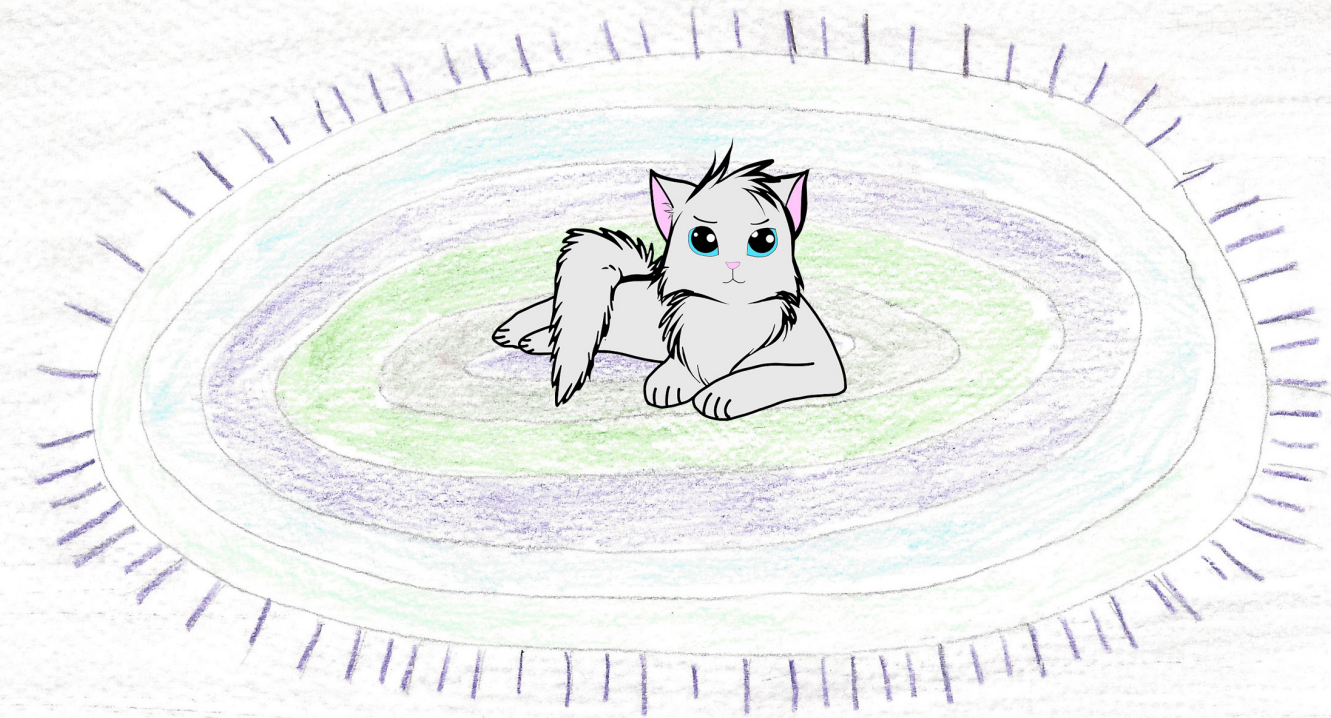
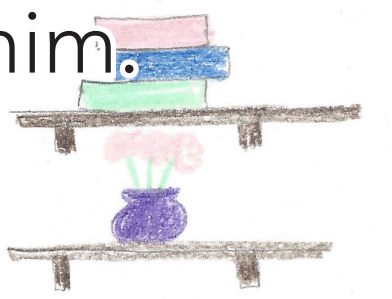
"Well, I still deserve to be here, I worked very hard."



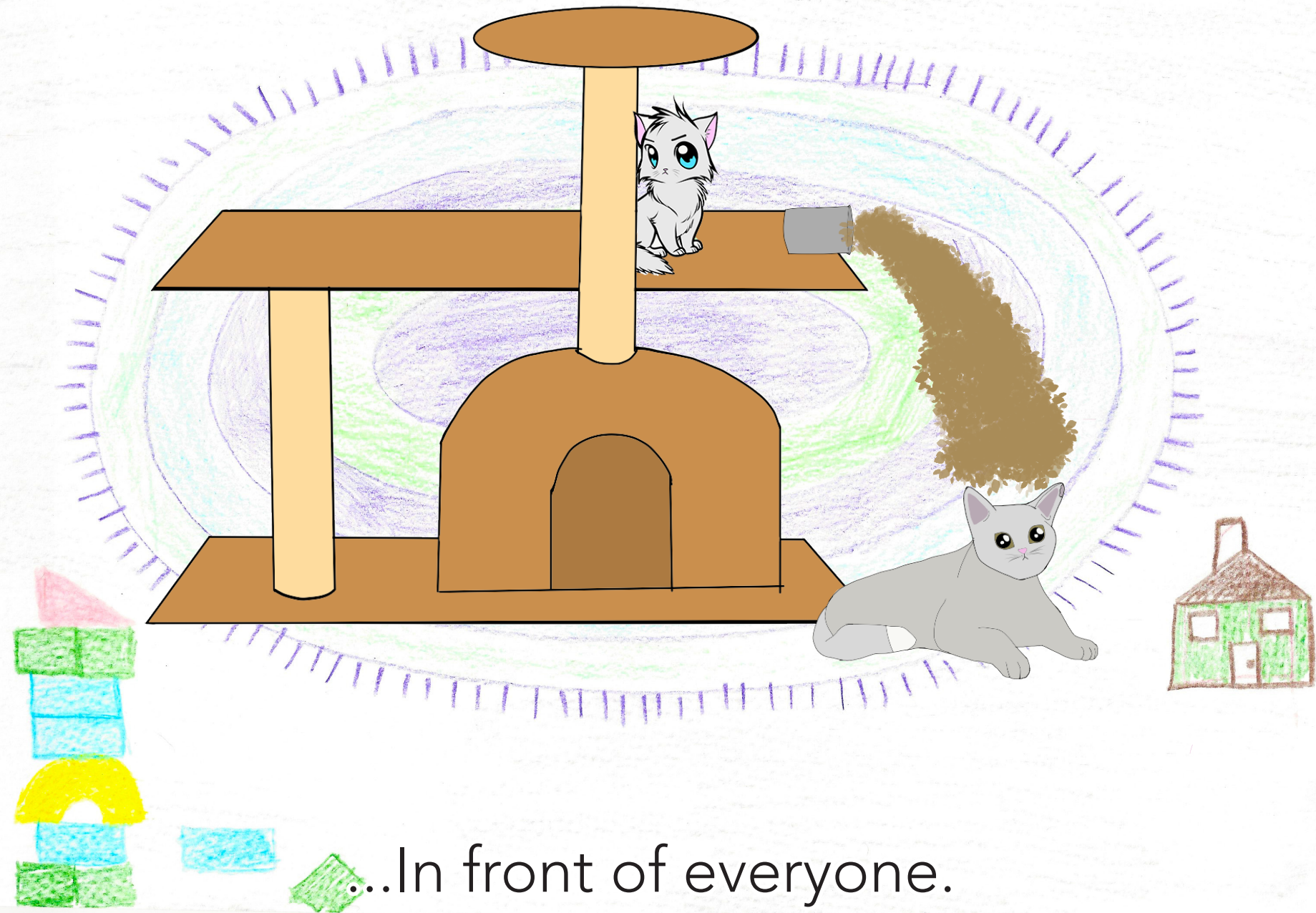
Tyler wants to pull a big stunt to embarrass Mike...



..He decides to pour mud on him.



Mike comes to daycare the next day, and pours the mud all over Mike...



In the crowd was Sally.
She was the most popular cat in the daycare.

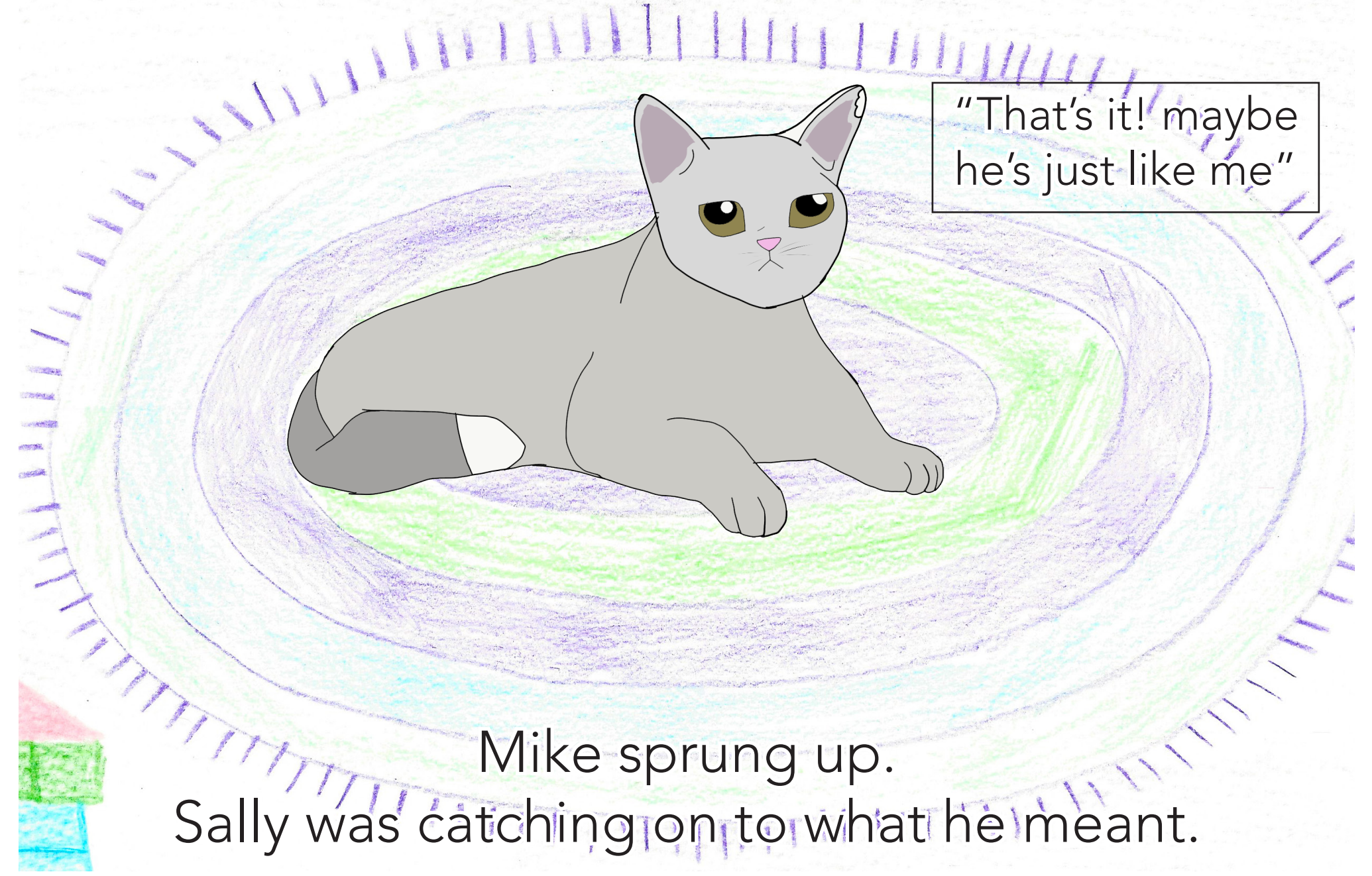




"He is smelly, gross, scruffy, AND AN ALLEY CAT"

"What did he ever do to you?"

Sally was helping Mike clean off his fur.



"That's it! maybe he's just like me"

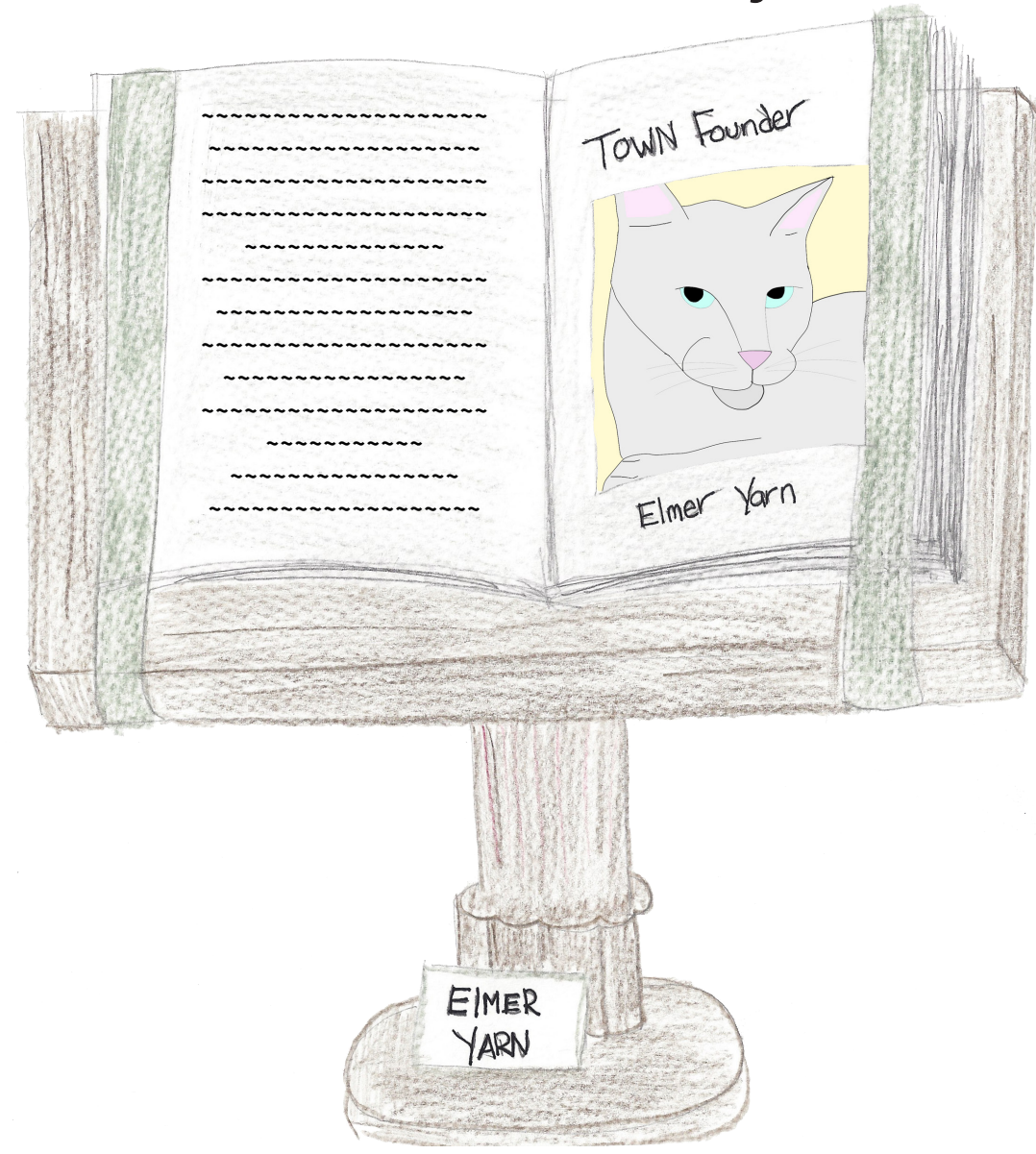
Mike sprung up. Sally was catching on to what he meant.

Sally and Mike went to the archives.



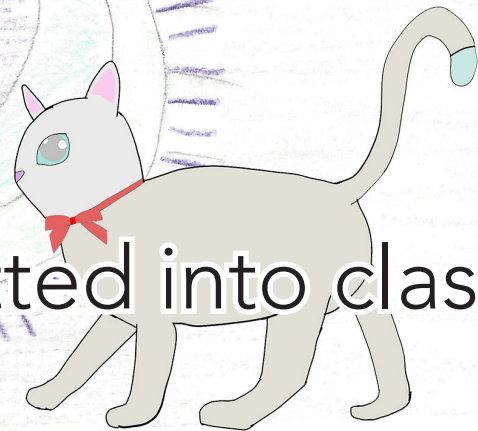
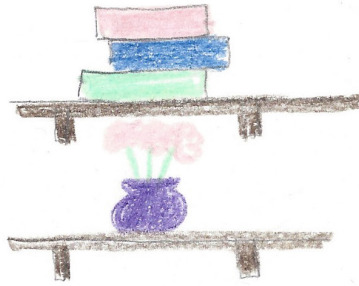
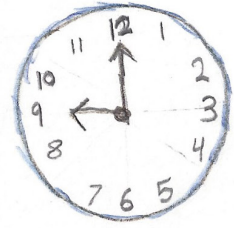
They saw Tyler's great grandfathers paper.

'Elmer Yarn - Greatest alley cat of all time.'



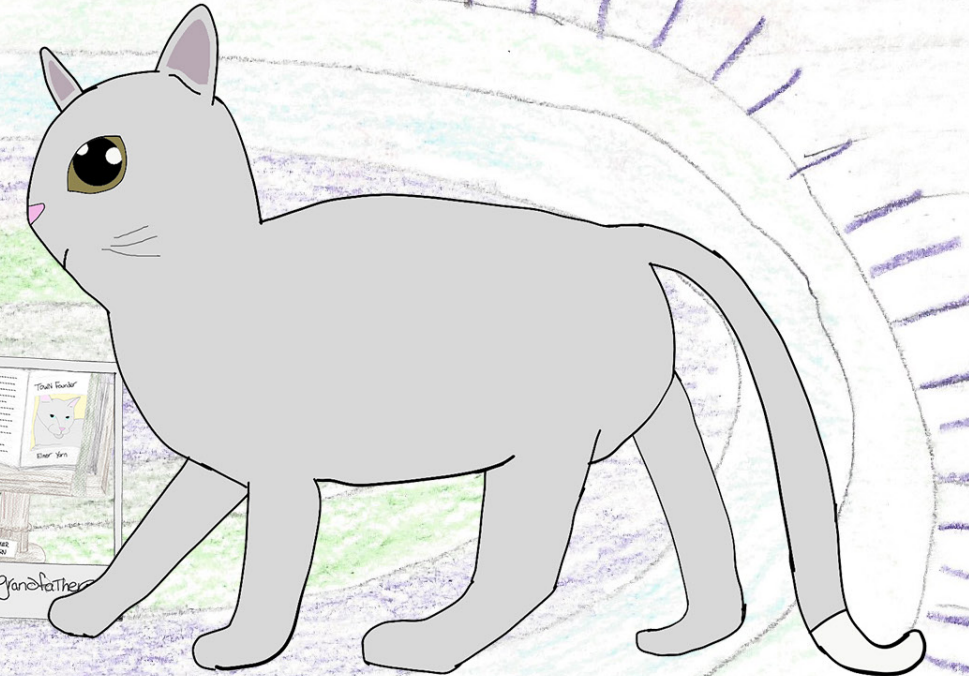
It said that Elmer helped build the city with other alley cats, but was the cat that started it all.

They looked up at each other in shock.



The next day Sally and Mike trotted into class,
together.

This was a rare sight to see
Mike made his way across the room to Tyler.



Tyler shot a glare at him.

Sally handed Tyler a photograph.
The other cats started looking over.



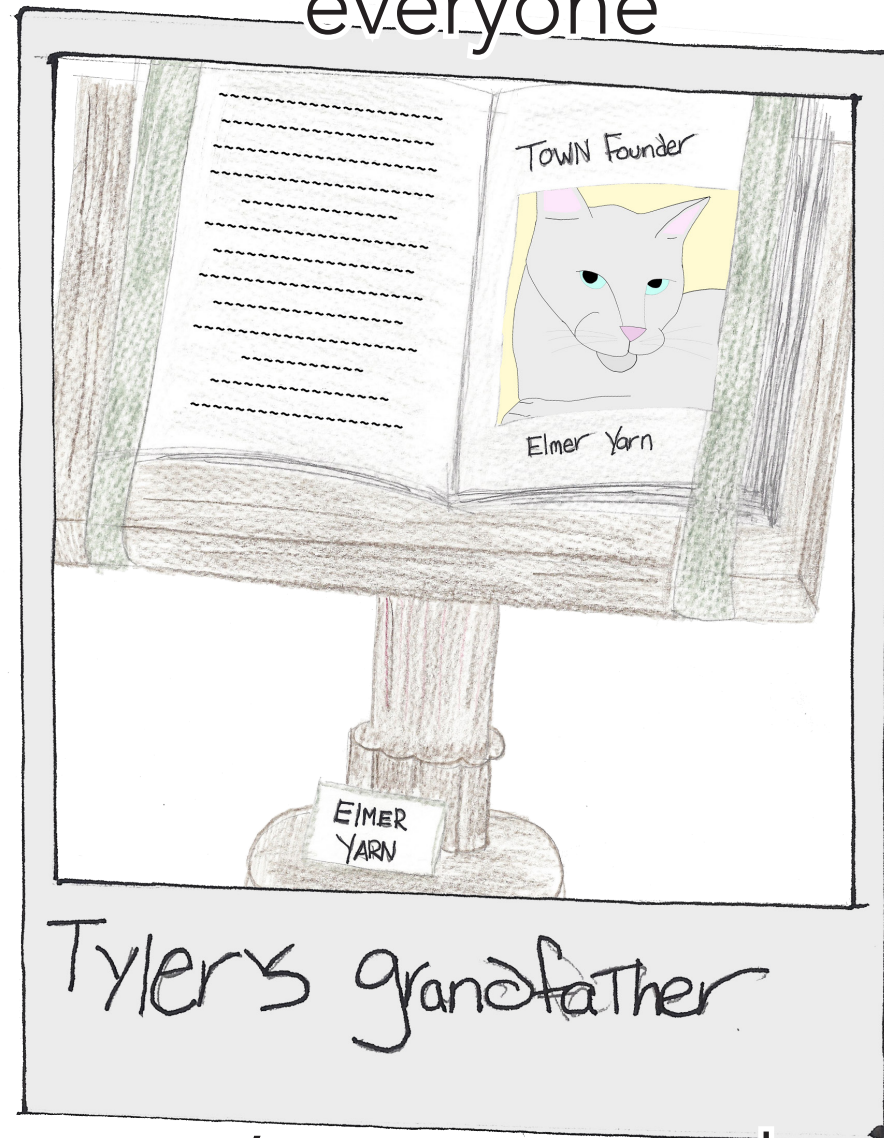
Tyler looked frazzled.

He begged and begged - even Sally and Mike felt
bad for him.



But they knew it had to be done.

She took the picture from Mike's hand and showed everyone



Everyone's eyes turned to Tyler
There was a smile on Mike's face

Tyler offered to take Mike to the salon to get a makeover, so that Mike could fit in



Mike's eyes glistened he couldn't wait to be a brand new cat

The Life of Mike the Alley Cat starts when Mike walks over to a daycare. He gets bullied by a cat named Tyler because he's not fluffy and rich. Eventually Sally, the most popular cat in the daycare, and the rest of the cats tell Tyler to stop. He says no at first, but Mike and Sally find out that Tyler's grandpa was an alley cat, the greatest alley cat of them all. Will Tyler accept Mike as just another cat? Or will this new discover lead to more conflict?

Graham was assigned to research the Kennedy New Frontier. This New Frontier was all about creating social and economic change in the US. This change included raising the federal minimum wage, guaranteeing equal pay for women, increasing federal aid for education, and rebuilding inner cities. In general, Kennedy's New Frontier was focused on equality for everyone. In The Life of Mike the Alley Cat, there is discrimination between the 'fancy cat', Tyler, and the alley cat, Mike. Eventually someone notices the immoral behavior and decides to do something about it. Similarly, Kennedy found issues in the nation's equality and started the New Frontier to combat issues. The book ends with everyone happy, which isn't exactly how the New Frontier happened, but people were definitely still better off with it.

Matt's connection was to Lyndon Johnson's Great Society and how he tried to end poverty, reduce crime, and stop inequality. Eventually, due to the Vietnam War, Johnson had to stop using funds to help his Great Society and start to focus on funding the war. America eventually created a peace treaty, but had spent countless amounts of money and lost many lives in a war that did not need to happen. The Life of Mike the Alley Cat talks about the inequality of wealth, and how some people belittle others for not being as wealthy as they are. In the story, the wealthy eventually accept the poor as people too, people who want to make a living. This is something that could have happened if Lyndon B Johnson didn't interfere with Vietnam, and spent more funds to help people who needed it the most.

Alex researched The Other America which refers to a part of society that is stuck in poverty. The book, The Other America by Michael Harrington, was released in 1962. When the book came out there were 50 million people in living in poverty unable to pay for food, shelter, and other resources. Many people thought that America was doing just fine at the time but they didn't know the struggles almost half of the country was dealing with. Michael Harrington brought all these tragedies to light and the government couldn't pretend they didn't see it anymore. To this day we still live with this "other America" that people still ignore. Our country can't progress because we're not taking care of the people in it. Over three billion people live on \$2.50 a day, and the wealthy tell them to work harder, or that it's their own fault. UNICEF states 22,000 children die each day due to poverty. When America starts fixing our own problems, maybe we can go help other countries because we are far from perfect.

One current connection that our book relates to today would be the difference between Greenwich and Bridgeport. Both of these places are like the Other America, in the sense that one is very wealthy and thriving while the other, not so much. It shows how we still have problems today with economics, and that it needs to change, as no one should have to deal with the problem of not having a home, or dealing with the circumstances in which they can't even feed their own kids. The magazine, The Atlantic, says "The poverty rate in Bridgeport has increased from 18 percent to 20 percent from 2007 to 2015, according to a report from the nonprofit Connecticut Voices for Children."

We hope our readers learn to not wait until everyone can see their problems to change. This is relevant to our story, because if Sally didn't stop Tyler from bullying Mike, then it could have gotten much worse. The book is a good metaphor for taking action with urgency, rather than being a bystander. Just like Kennedy and Johnson, who tried to make a change in America, instead of just sitting there letting it rot.

**WILL MIKE THE ALLEY CAT FIND PEACE
WITH THE FANCY, RICH CAT TYLER? OR
WILL THEIR FEUD CONTINUE FOREVER?**

