

Meow Meow Says No!

喵喵，不要！

Author: Yu-Chin Huang **Illustrator:** Yu-Chin Huang **Publisher:** Taiwan Interminds Publishing

Date: 02/2021

Rights contact: bft.children.comics@moc.gov.tw

36 pages | 21 x 23 cm **Volume:** 1

BFT2.0 Translator: Michelle Kuo

When Little Jade adopts a cat, naming it Meow Meow, she discovers it loudly resists her. Whenever she asks Meow Meow to take a bath or play with her, it replies, “No!” This leaves her feeling frustrated. One day, while playing alone in the park, a stranger approaches her and tries to hug her. Feeling nervous and unsure, she wonders—what should she do? Then she remembers what Meow Meow taught her: to say, “No!”

Meow Meow Says No! uses playful illustrations and the humorous parallel between a cat’s meow and the word “no” to offer a fresh perspective. The story helps children understand that saying “no” isn’t inherently wrong. Instead, it emphasizes the importance of asserting boundaries in uncomfortable situations while respecting others’ boundaries when they say “no.” This book combines fun and education, encouraging children to protect themselves and interact respectfully with others. This book embodies a fun and practical approach to contemporary issues of individual respect and social-emotional development.



Author **Yu-Chin Huang**

Yu-Chin Huang, who studied film, has been a television scriptwriter since 1986. Known for his whimsical imagination and free-spirited drawing style, he began creating picture books in 1988. In 1996, he co-founded the picture book creation group “Picture Book Club,” where he also served as its captain. In 2015, he played a key role in launching *Big Bad Wolf*, Taiwan’s first picture book magazine. His works are rich and diverse, earning numerous awards, including selection for the Bologna Illustration Award in Italy in 2016. Notable publications include the travelogue *Illustrated Journey of Small Things* and picture books such as *Here Is My Home* and *Magical Cinema*.

Practicing Saying “No” with a Cat

by Shan-Chung Yang

Adults who own or love cats know that cats are animals with very strong personalities. Often mysterious and independent, they exhibit behaviors that can be both endearing and frustrating. Cats like to knock things off tables, take over their owner’s computer, hide in cardboard boxes, or perch in high places. Sometimes, cat owners long to get closer to their adorable pets, but things don’t always go as planned. Similarly, toddlers around the age of two—often experiencing the “terrible twos”—are developing their sense of self and emotional awareness. Much like cats, these young children often respond to their parents’ requests with a firm “No!” making it a challenging phase for parents.

In the book *Meow Meow Says No!*,

author Yu-Chin Huang draws parallels between the rebellious nature of cats and toddlers. Through the interactions between Little Jade and her cat, Meow Meow, the story uses simple language and lively illustrations to showcase the unique personality and behaviors of cats. Whether Little Jade wants to hug Meow Meow, give it a bath, have it stay at home with her, or get it to come out of a cardboard box, Meow Meow always responds with a firm “No!” Fortunately, Meow Meow isn’t the only one saying “No.” Little Jade also learns to say “No” in different situations, such as refusing Meow Meow’s endless eating, telling Meow Meow not to run out of the house, and saying “No” to a strange man who wants to hug her in the park.

This book is an excellent read for

parents and children together. During interactions with animals, children may sometimes use too much force or touch them incorrectly, causing the animal to react negatively. Through Meow Meow’s repeated “No” responses, parents can engage their children in discussions about why the cat behaves this way or refuses certain actions. This helps teach children the importance of respecting an animal’s boundaries. Similarly, parents can help children understand the reasons behind Little Jade’s actions, fostering emotional development and empathy. This process can gradually help children move away from automatically saying “No” to their parents and instead learn the value of saying “No” in situations that make them uncomfortable or unsafe. By exploring

these scenarios, children can understand that saying “No” is not always negative. In fact, knowing how to say “No” at the right moment to refuse harmful or uncomfortable actions is a vital and courageous skill.

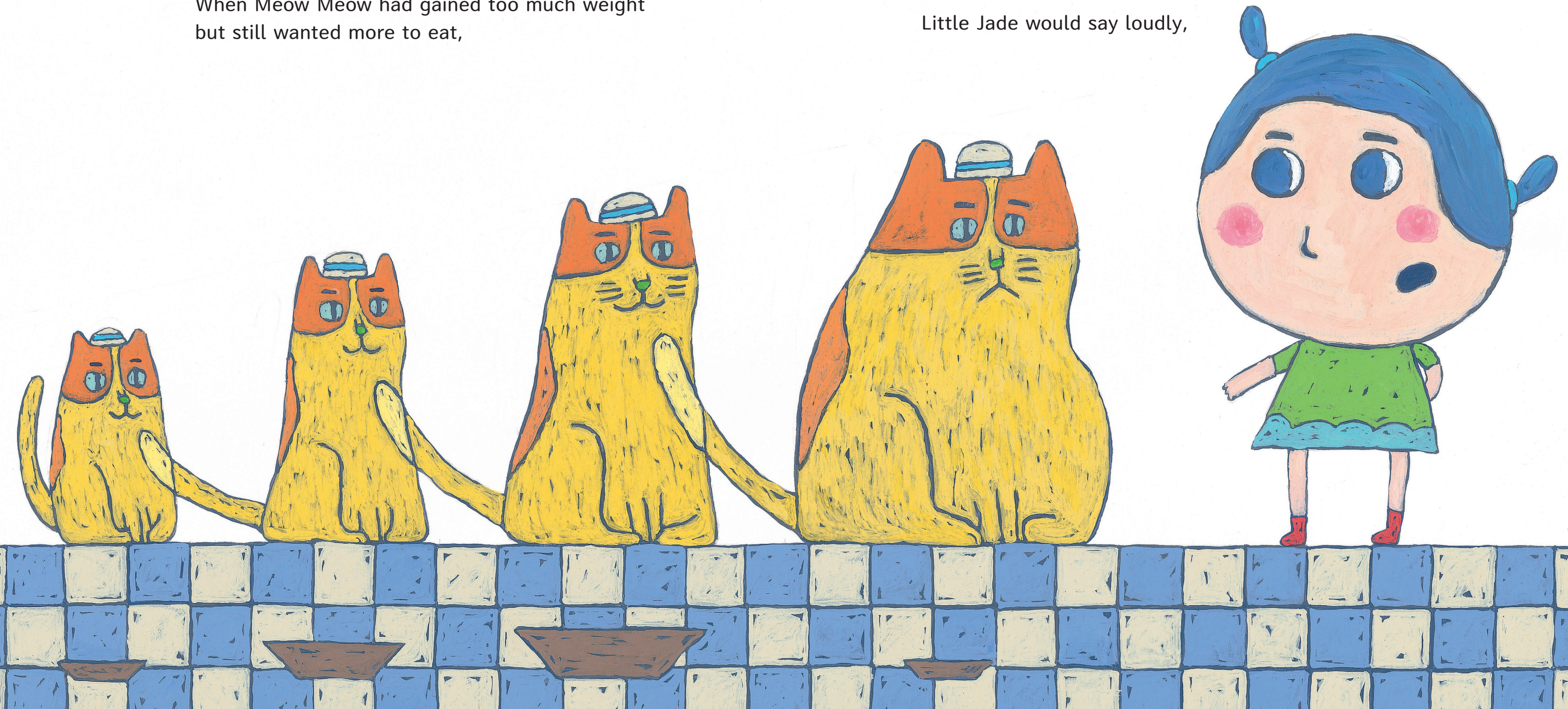
Shan-Chung Yang, graduated from the Department of History at National Taiwan University, with experience as an intern teacher and literary event planner. a flat-handwriting enthusiast from a humid island, was born in the subtropical winter. She has a deep love for the trees and climate of temperate zones, as well as calendars that start on Sundays. Her life idol is the clumsy, ice-climbing Adélie penguin. A bear fanatic at heart, she dreams of being friends with big dogs.

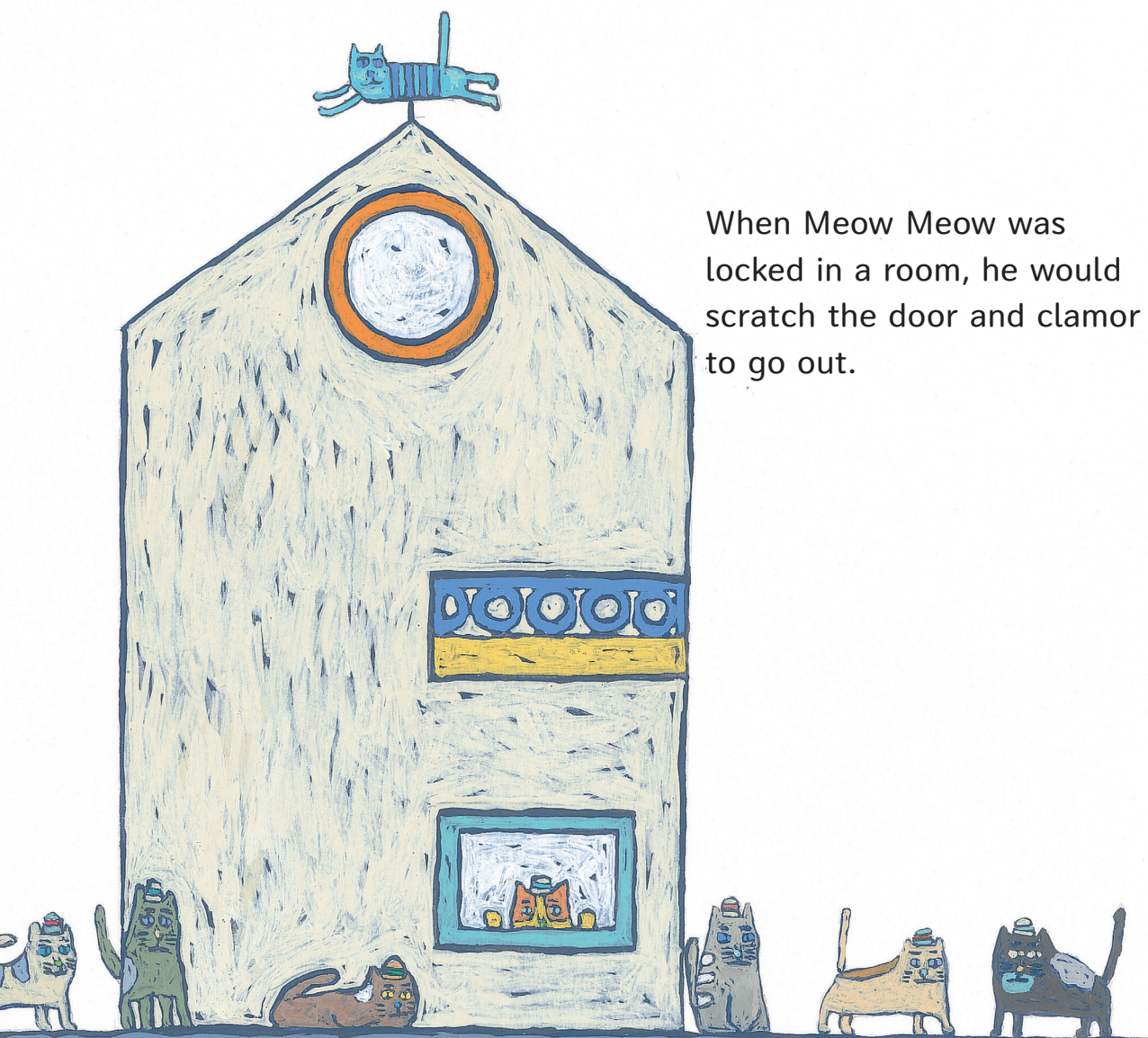
But in the end, it was Little Jade who learned.

When Meow Meow had gained too much weight
but still wanted more to eat,

Little Jade would say loudly,

No!





When Meow Meow was
locked in a room, he would
scratch the door and clamor
to go out.

Little Jade would say loudly,

No!



Today Little Jade was playing by herself at the park.

A smiling man said to her,

“I have some candy for you. Would you let me hug you?”



Little Jade got a little scared.

That person was getting close and closer.

Little Jade was getting more and more nervous...

