

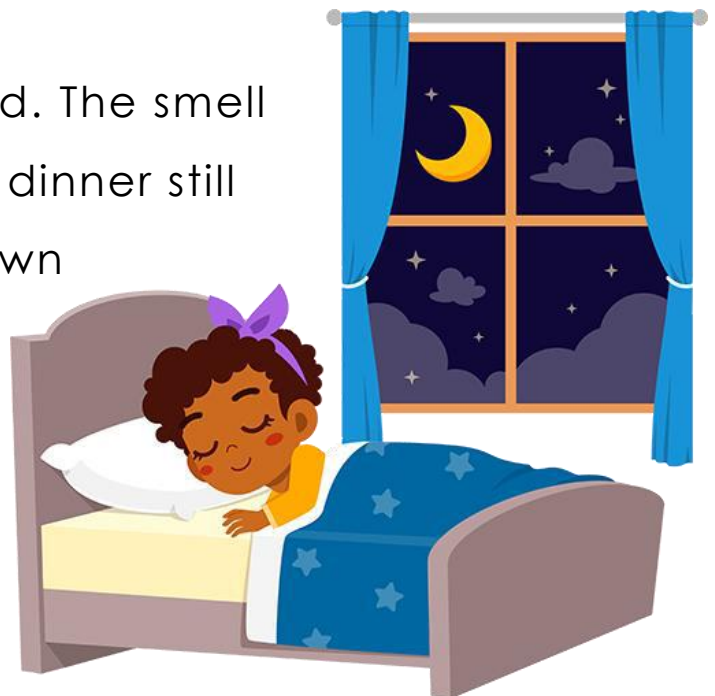
Read the short story. Then answer each question.

Sly's Secret Adventure

"Sweet dreams," Mom whispered as she tucked Erin into bed. Mom stroked the glossy grey fur of the cat curled up on the blanket. "Sly will watch over you through the night." The cat began to purr.

Sly waited as Erin's eyes closed and she drifted off to sleep. He watched as the room became darker. He listened as the house became quieter. Only then did he slide off the bed and snuck down the stairs on silent paws.

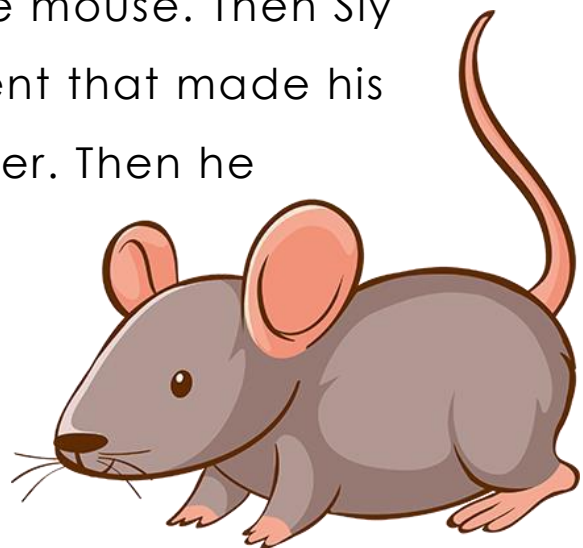
Raising his nose, Sly sniffed. The smell of the family's roast beef dinner still hung in the air. Sly sat down beside his food dish and stirred the dry kibble with his paw. His tummy grumbled.



Then Sly got a wonderful idea. He walked over to the kitchen pantry. Lying down he curled his toes under the door and pulled – one...two...three! On the third try the door opened.

Looking up, Sly spied a bag of cat treats. Holding onto the shelves with his front paws, Sly stretched up as tall as he could. He tried to swat the bag with his paw – one, two, three. On his third try a bag of pepper dropped from the shelf, plopped onto the floor. Sly sneezed and walked away flicking his tail. He decided he wasn't hungry after all.

In the family room, Sly sat down beside a stuffed catnip mouse and batted the toy with his paw. He tried to imagine chasing a live mouse. Then Sly smelled something. A wild scent that made his heart race and his mouth water. Then he heard it. The sound of something tiny as it scurried across the floor. Then Sly saw it – a real mouse!



Off Sly dashed across the room. He slipped when the mouse changed direction, pushing a rug up against the wall. The mouse dove under a bookcase. Sly lunged and hit his head as the mouse escaped. Sly shook his head and walked away flicking his tail. He decided he didn't want to chase a live mouse after all.

Sly sneaked up the stairs on silent paws. In Erin's room he jumped up and landed lightly on the bed. He listened to the early morning sounds of the house. He watched as the room around him became brighter. Sly curled up and laid his head down on his paws.

"Good morning Sly," Erin whispered. "I always have sweet dreams with you beside me." Erin stroked the glossy grey fur of the cat curled up on the blanket. The cat purred.



Exercises:

1. Number the events in order.

_____ Sly stretched up as tall as he could.

_____ Sly listened as the house grew quieter.

_____ Sly decided he didn't want to chase a live mouse.

_____ Sly stirred the dry kibble with his paw.

2. Fill in the blanks.

a. Sly tried to _____ the bag of treats with his paw.

b. Sly smelled something that made his heart _____ and his mouth _____.

c. Sly _____ up the stairs on _____ paws.

Answers:

1. Number the events in order.

- 3 Sly stretched up as tall as he could.
- 1 Sly listened as the house grew quieter.
- 4 Sly decided he didn't want to chase a live mouse.
- 2 Sly stirred the dry kibble with his paw.

2. Fill in the blanks.

- a. Sly tried to swat the bag of treats with his paw.
- b. Sly smelled something that made his heart race and his mouth water.
- c. Sly sneaked up the stairs on silent paws.

3. Describe Mom's reaction when she saw the open pantry door, bag of pepper and rumped rug?

Answers will vary.