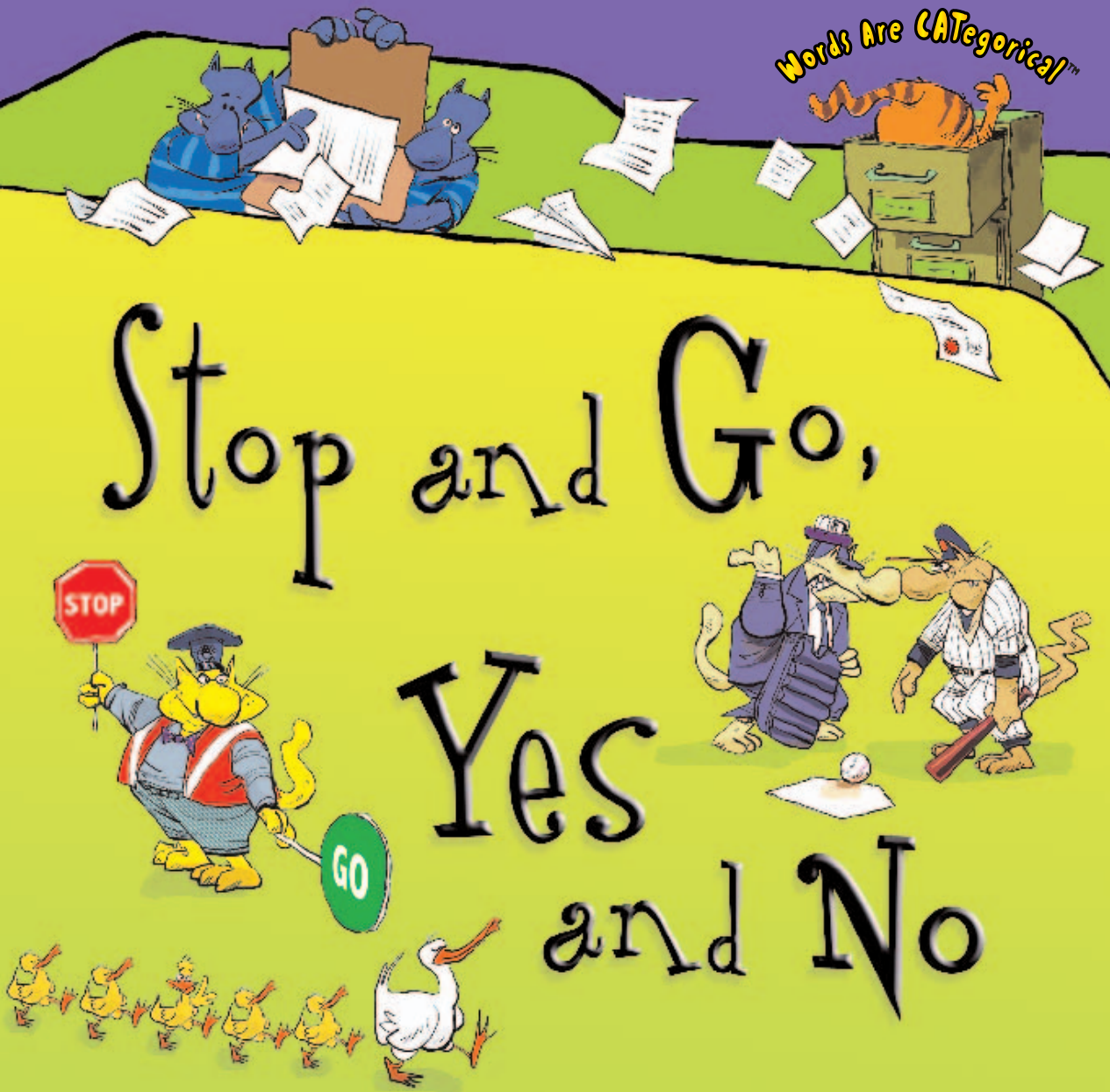


Words Are CAtegorical™

# Stop and Go, Yes and No



What Is an Antonym?

by Brian P. Cleary

illustrated by Brian P. Cleary

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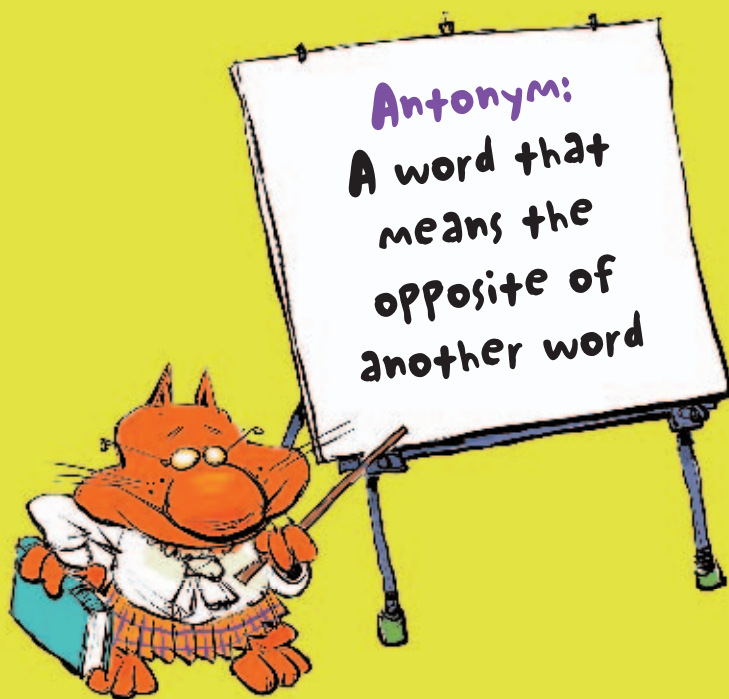
# Stop and Go, Yes and No

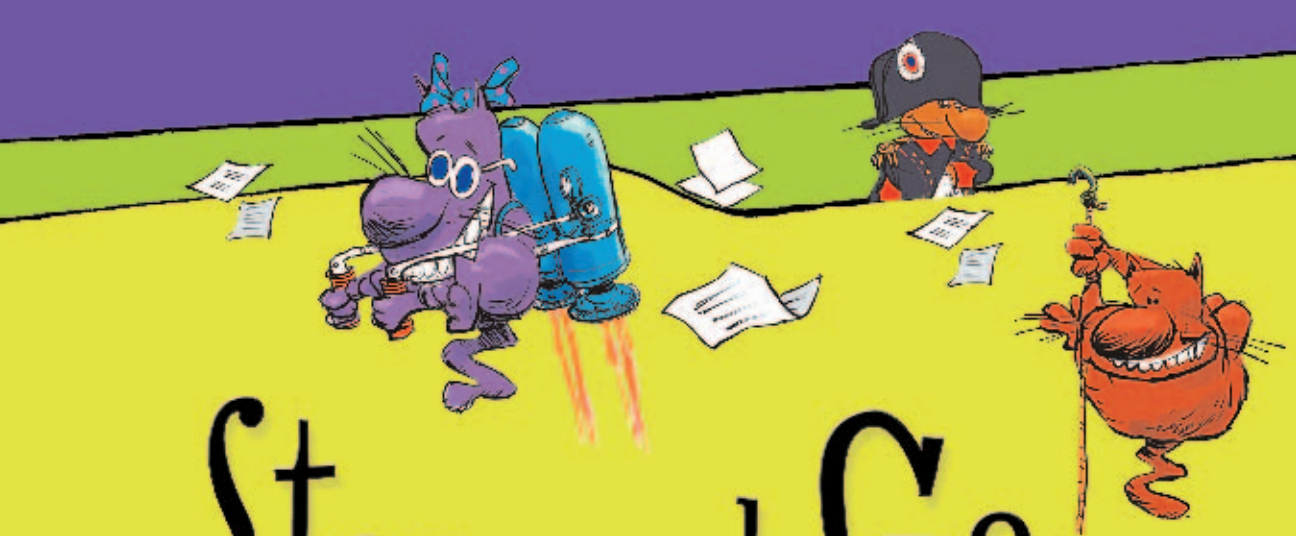


What Is an Antonym?



To my brother Kevin, who appreciates  
the richness of our language  
—B.P.C.





# Stop and Go, Yes and No

What Is an Antonym?

by Brian P. Cleary

illustrated by Brian Gable

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Antonyms are opposites—  
they're words like



See how different those words are?



They're just like **yes** and **no**.

Big and small  
are antonyms,



and so are front and back,



fast

and

slow

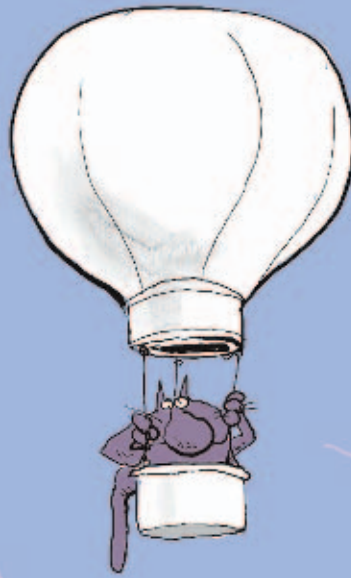
and

high

and

low,

as well as white and black.

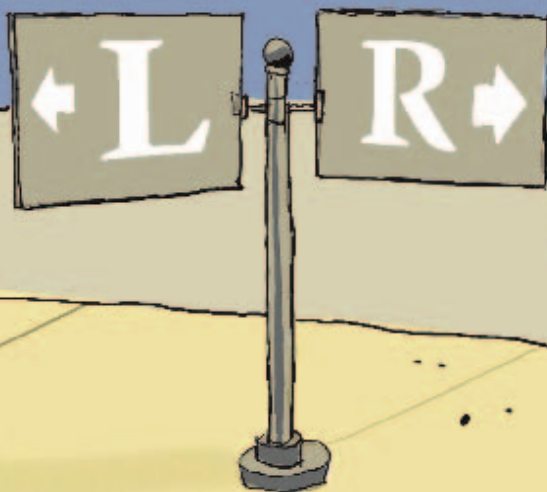


Up and down  
are antonyms



just like **excite** and **soothe**,

left and right  
and dark and light,



and also  
rough  
and  
smooth.



If it weren't for opposites,  
we'd have no way to say,





"I'd like to have  
my chocolate **hot**,



'cause it's so **cold** today!"

And what if we could only  
ever say that we were *sad*?

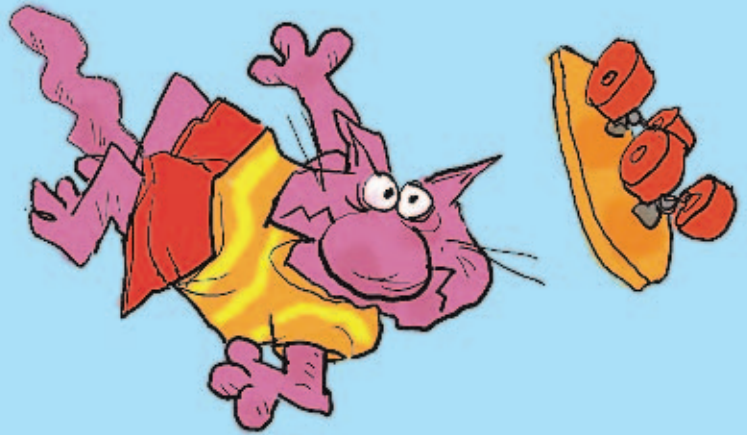


Because of antonyms,  
when things are right,  
we'll say we're glad.

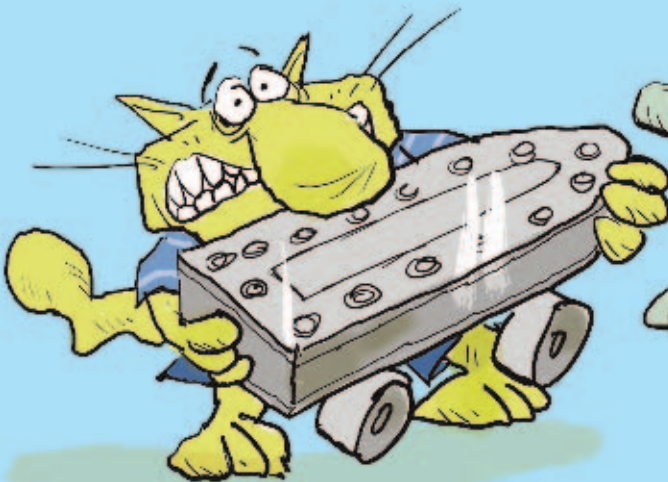




Like **Safe**  
compared to **dangerous**,

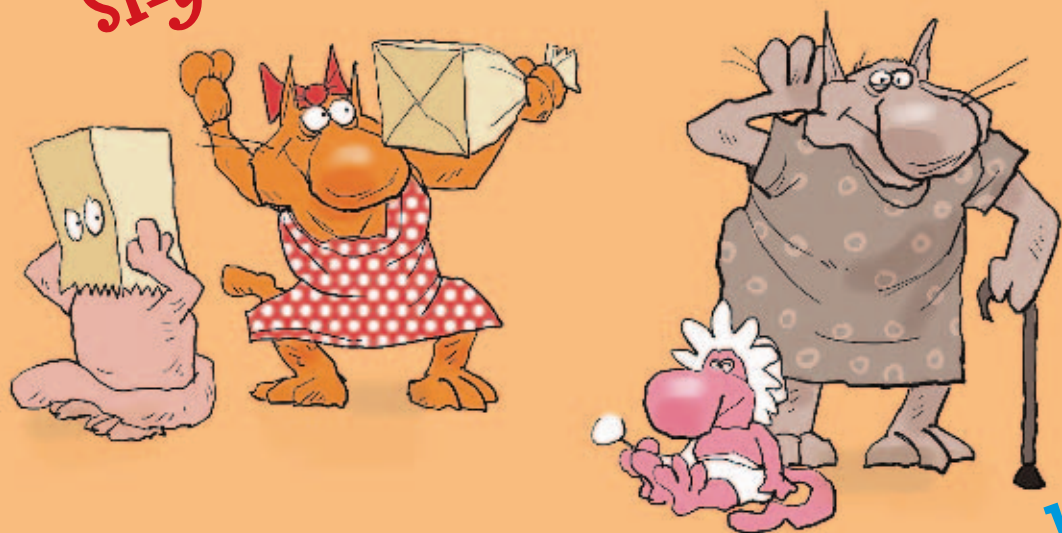


like **heavy** is to **light**,





shy to bold

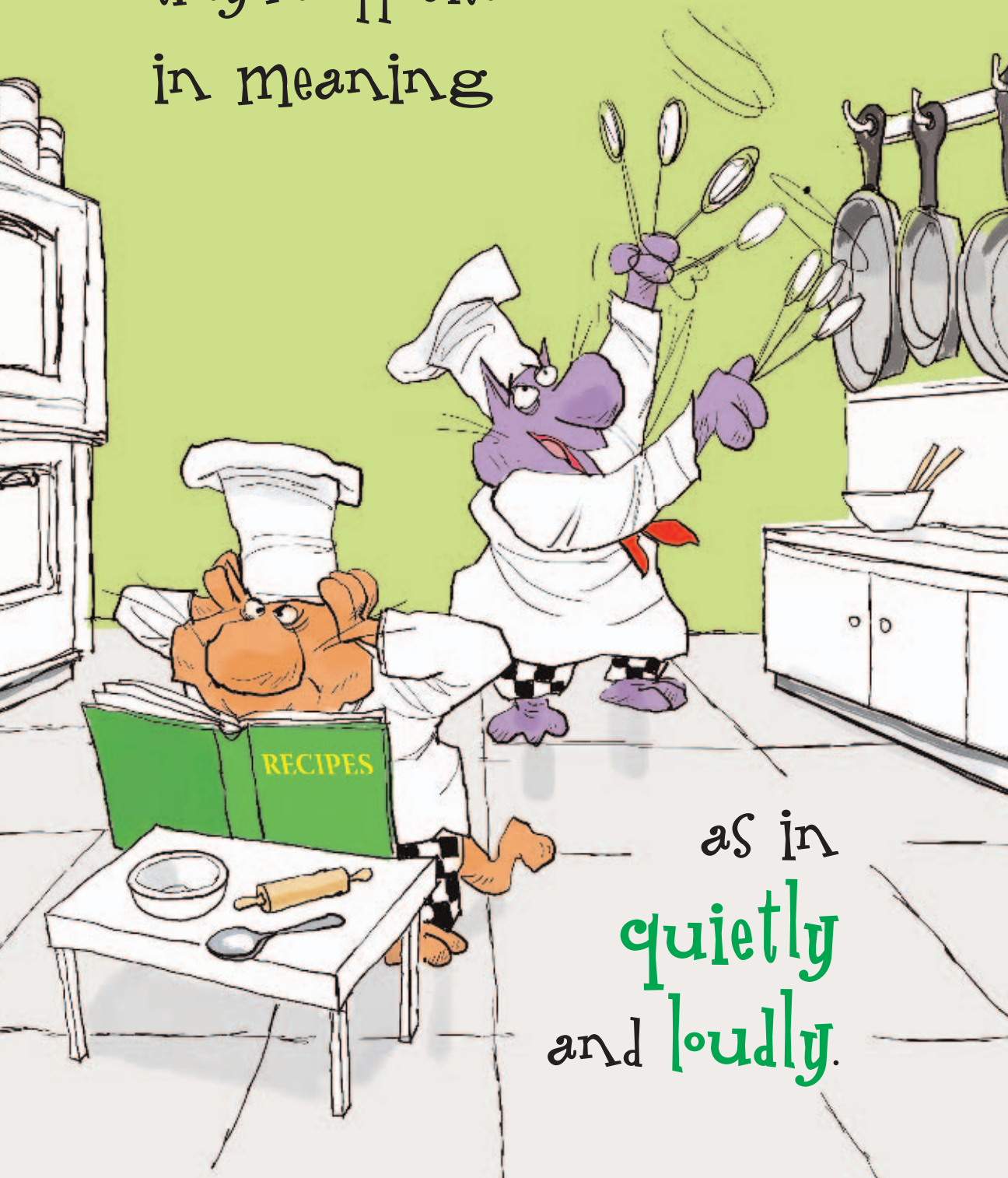


and young to old



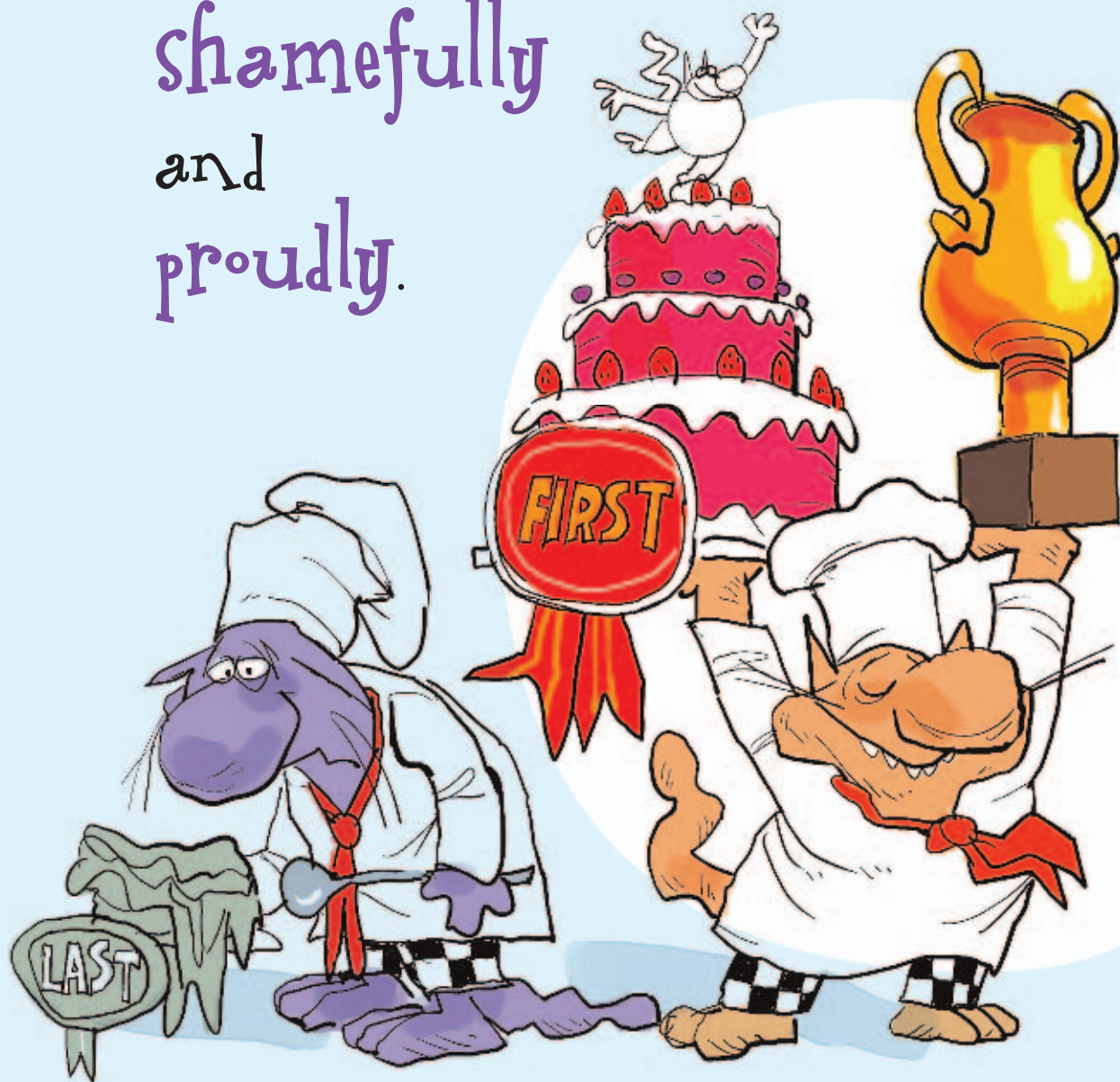
and even dim to bright,

they're opposite  
in meaning



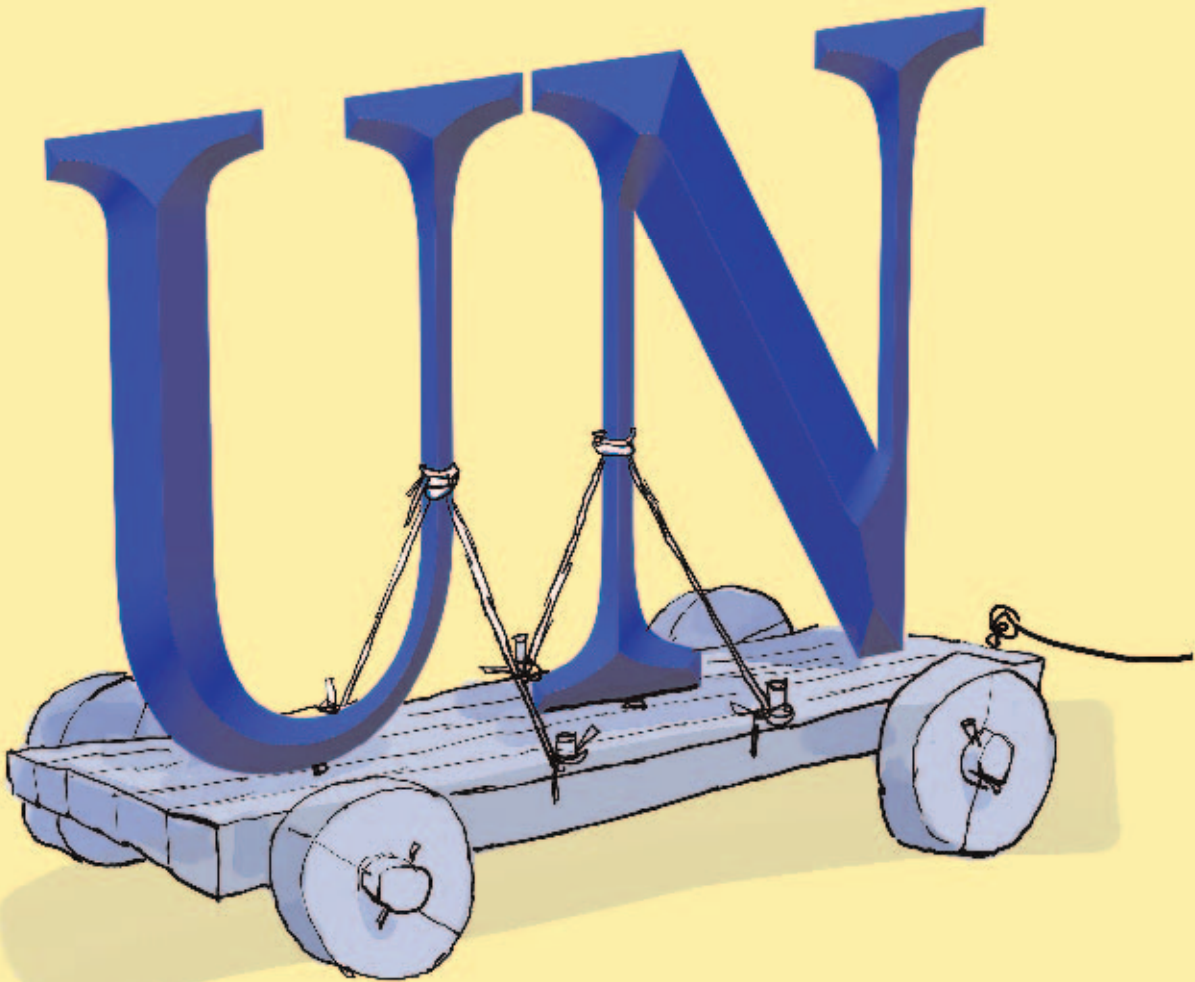
as in  
quietly  
and loudly.

They show a total contrast  
just like  
shamefully  
and  
proudly.





Sometimes **antonyms**  
are made  
with "un" before a word.



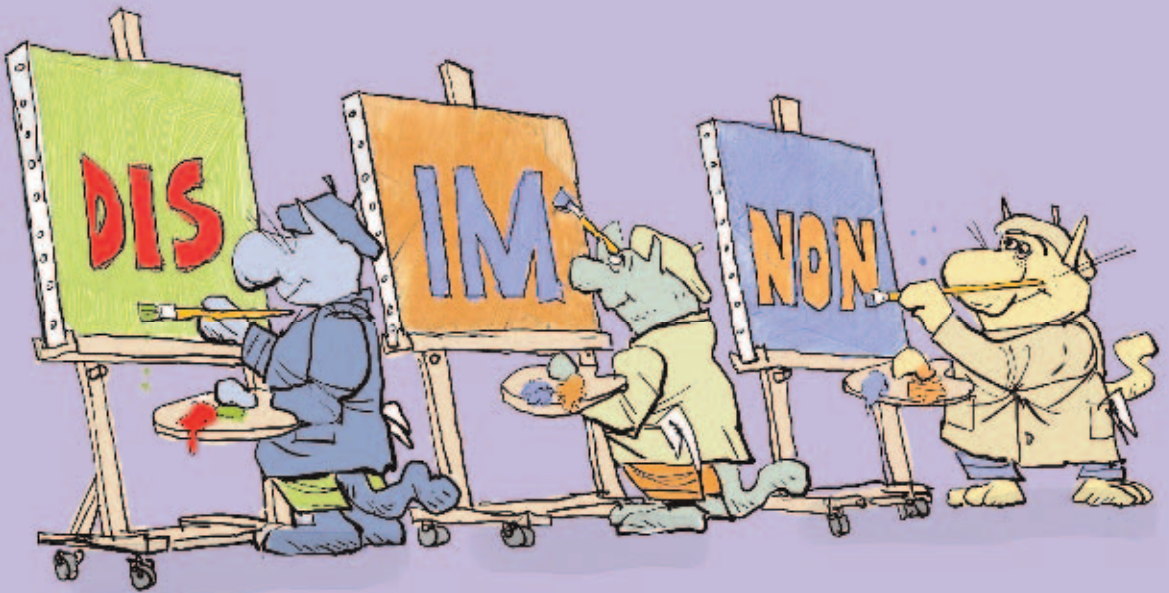


This is how we get  
**unkind,**



unable,  
and unheard.

often adding "dis"  
or "im"  
or sometimes even "non"



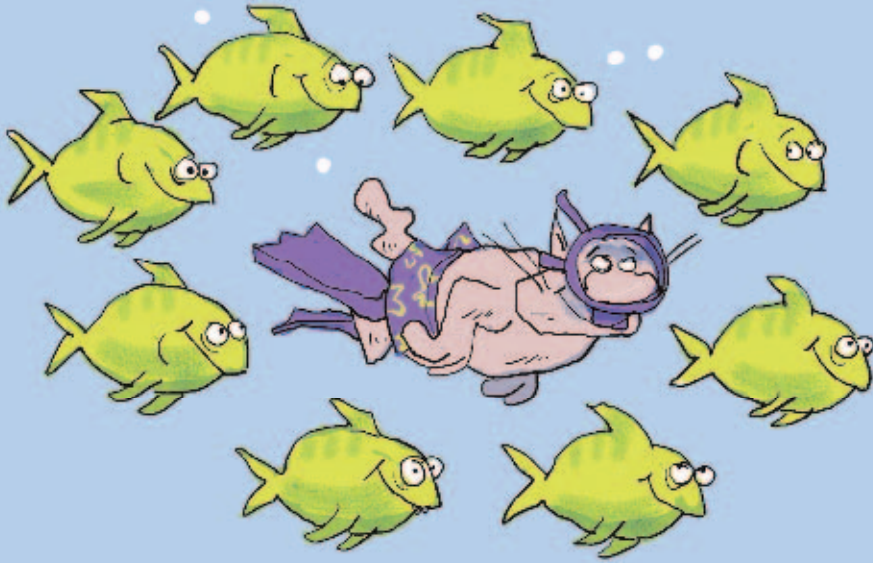
will help you build an  
antonym  
with these beginnings on.

For example,  
*disrespect,*  
*impossible,*  
*nonfiction.*



Their prefixes are helpful  
in displaying contradiction.

Antonyms help us divide

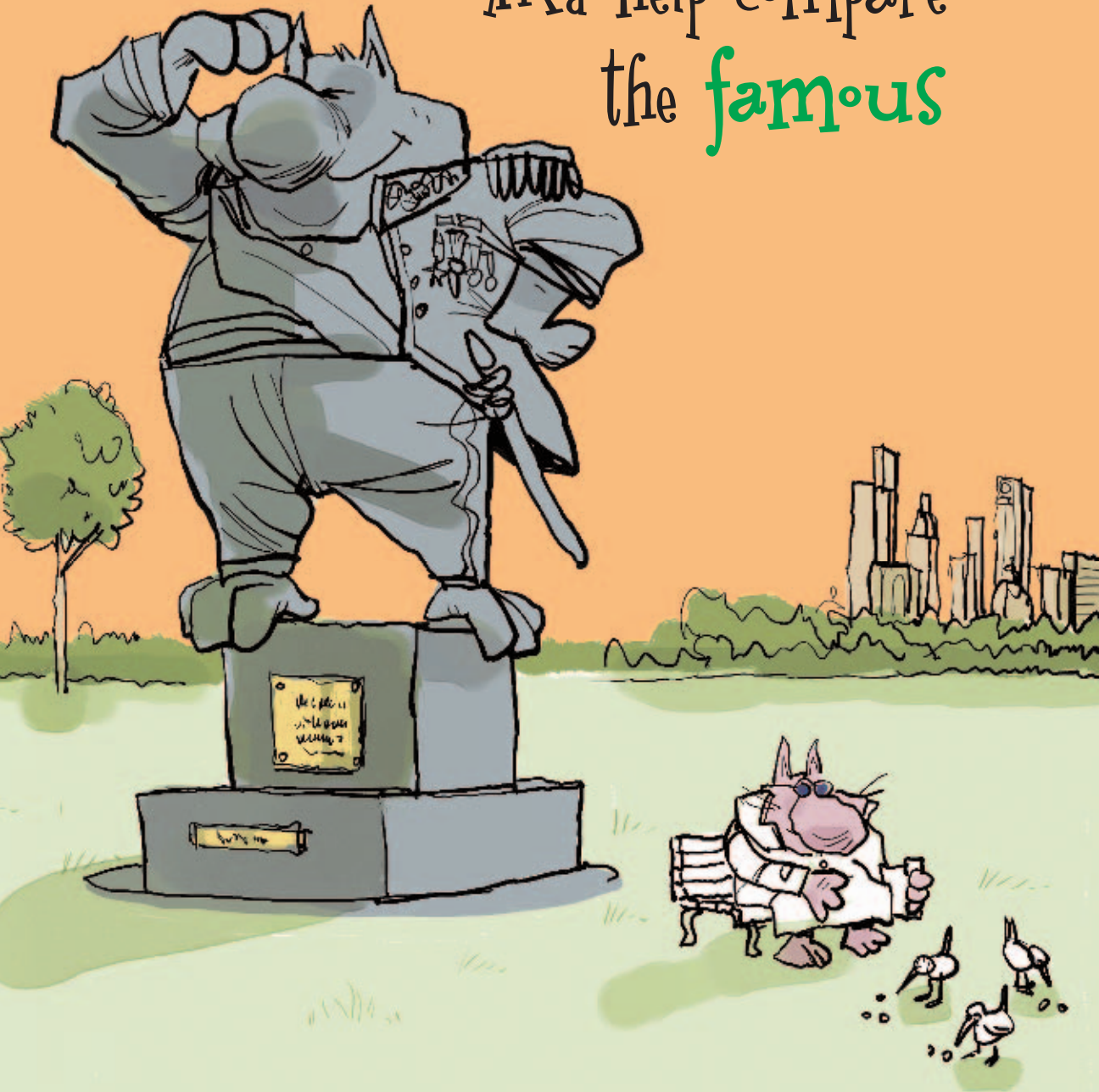


Surrounded from alone.





And help compare  
the famous



to the totally unknown.

They point out lots of differences



like **bald** and extra **hairy**,

and give us words  
to help us grow  
a big Vocabulary.



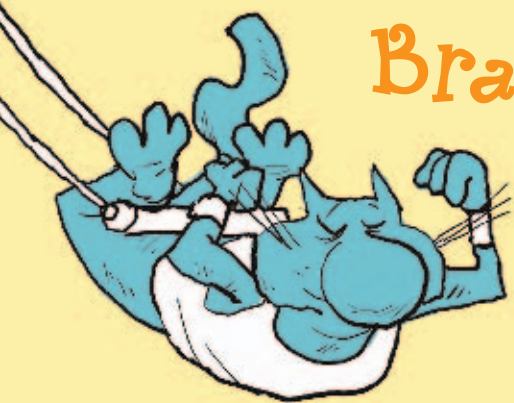


Like *hefty* and *diminutive*,



*absurd* and somewhat *normal*.





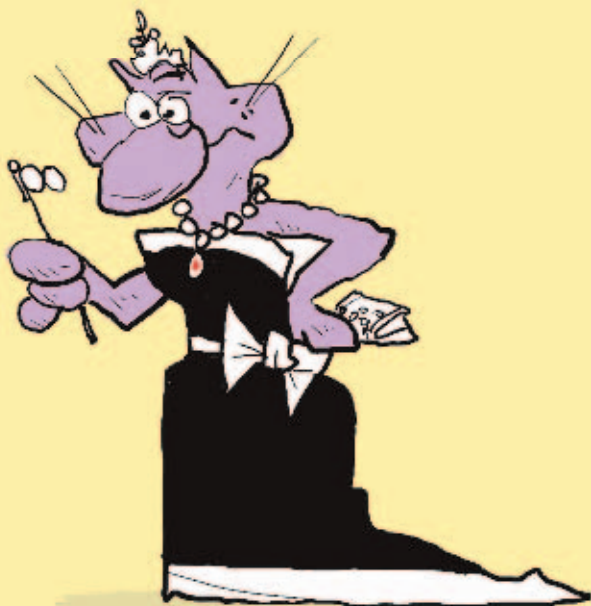
Bravery



and cowardice,



quite casual



or formal.

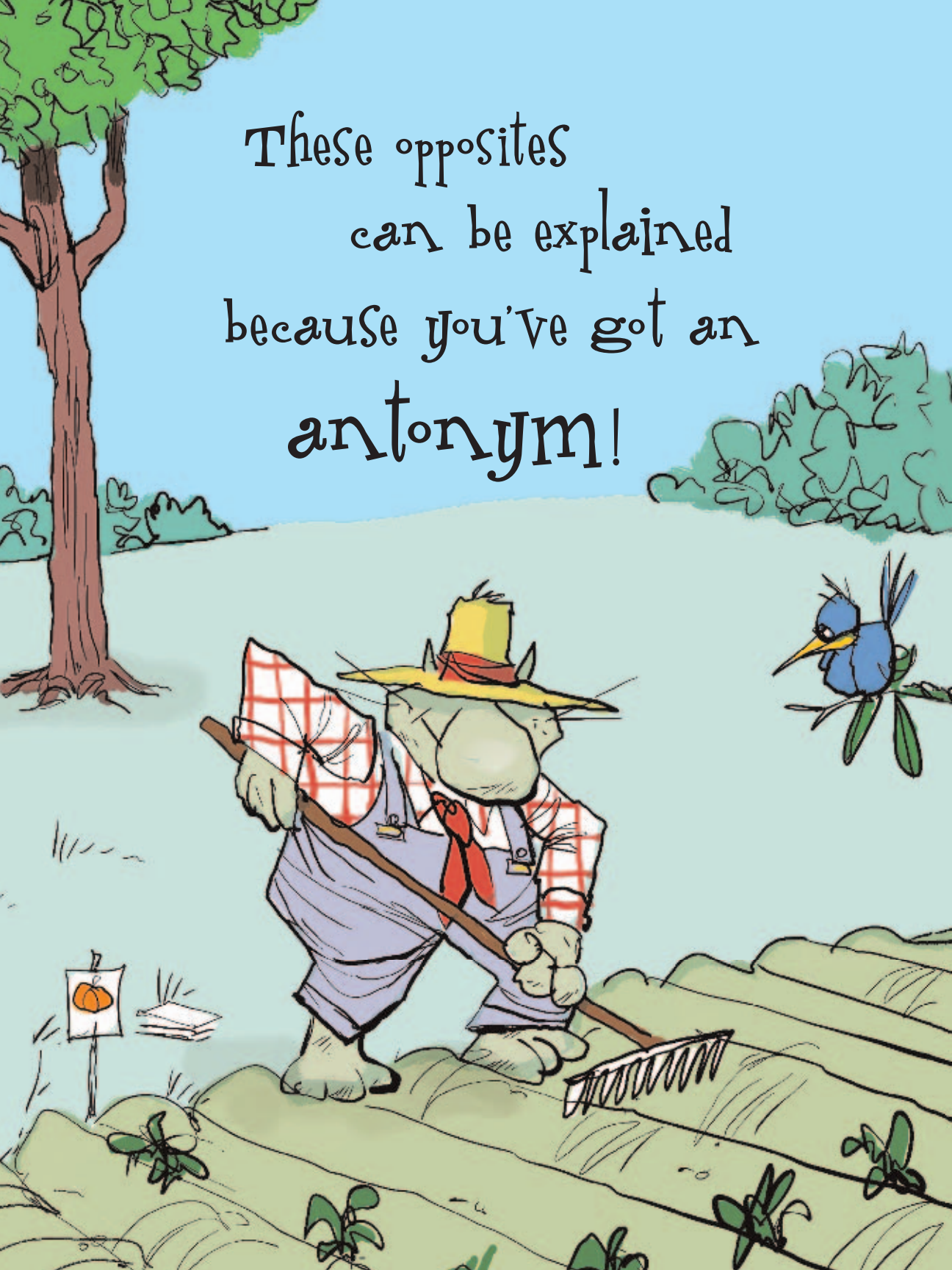
In fall, the farmer  
**harvests** crops.

In spring, he's busy  
**plantin'** 'em.





These opposites  
can be explained  
because you've got an  
antonym!

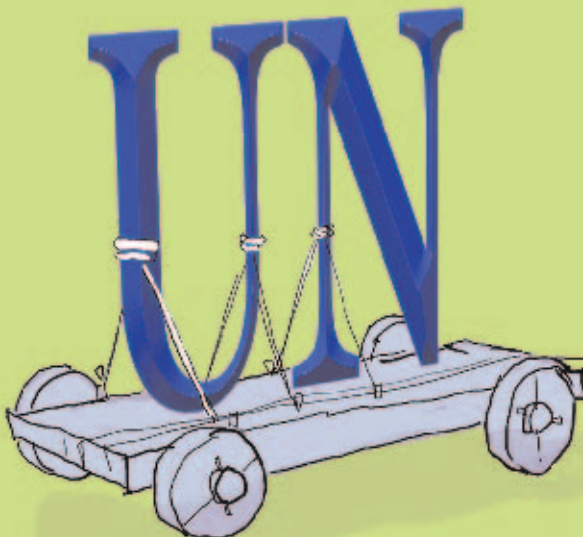
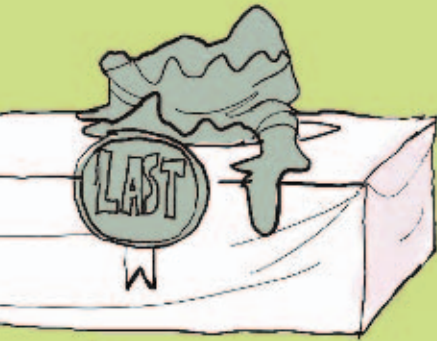




So, what is an antonym?



Do you know?



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

**BRIAN P. CLEARY** is the author of the **Words Are Categorical™** and **Math Is Categorical™** series, as well as **Rainbow Soup: Adventures in Poetry**, and **Rhyme and PUNishment: Adventures in Wordplay**. He lives in Cleveland, Ohio.

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