

READER 1: Imagine this! It is a cold, wet, foggy night along the rocky coast of Nova Scotia.

READER 2: Listen! Hear the sounds of a lonely seagull, somewhere in the distance.

READER 3: Now picture a small seaside graveyard spotted with ancient crumbling headstones. At one end of the yard, a fresh grave has just been dug.

READER 1: Move along in your imagination to a tiny wind-blown cottage which stands nearby. You can see a flicker of light from one of the cottage windows.

READER 2: Inside, the local gravedigger's wife sits in her rocking chair beside the fire. She waits for her husband to come home. The couple's big black cat, Old Tom, is curled beside the chair.

READER 3: The old woman rocks back and forth on wooden rockers.

ALL: SQUEAK SQUEAK! SQUEAK SQUEAK!

READER 3: Once in a while Old Tom lifts his head and says,

6/OLD TOM: "MEOW!"

Page 2/ Classroom Script/ THE KING OF THE CATS

READER 1: When, at last, the gravedigger rushes in through the cottage door, he is out of breath, shaking, and very upset. The gravedigger shouts,

4/GRAVEDIGGER: "Who is Tommy Tildrum?"

READER 2: His wife and the cat stare at him. Finally, his wife answers,

5/WIFE: "What in the world is the matter with you? I don't know a Tommy Tildrum. Don't care to know one either. Why do you ask?"

READER 3: The old woman rocks back and forth on the wooden rockers.

ALL: SQUEAK SQUEAK! SQUEAK SQUEAK!

READER 3: The gravedigger continues.

4/GRAVEDIGGER: "You will never believe what I have seen! I finished digging old man Garnier's grave about an hour ago. It was foggy and cold and I had a heck of a time gettin' her done. I was just gathering my tools together when I heard the cry of a cat."

READER 1: Old Tom lifts his head and says,

6/OLD TOM: "MEOW!"

4/GRAVEDIGGER: "Yes, just like that! I looked over Garnier's grave, and guess what I saw?"