

Words Are CAtegorical™

Stop and Go, Yes and No



What Is an Antonym?

by Brian P. Cleary

illustrated by Brian Gable

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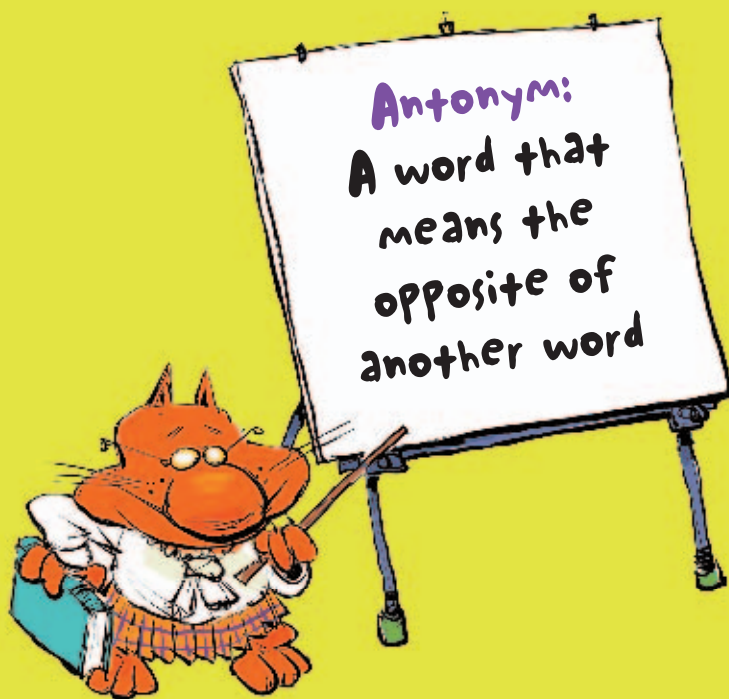
Stop and Go, Yes and No

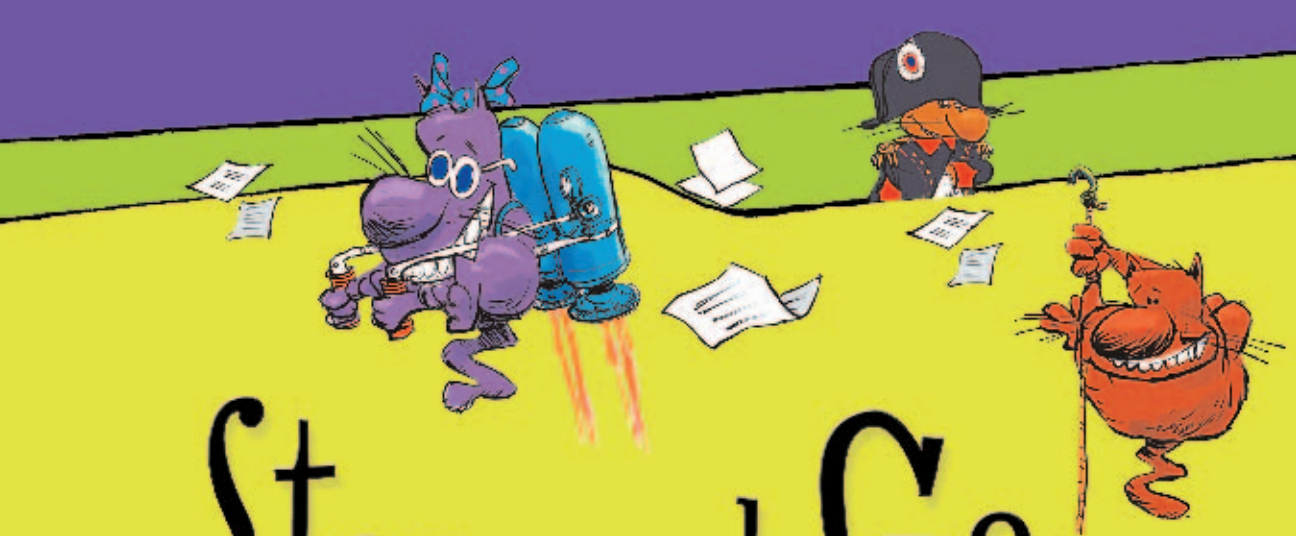


What Is an Antonym?



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





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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

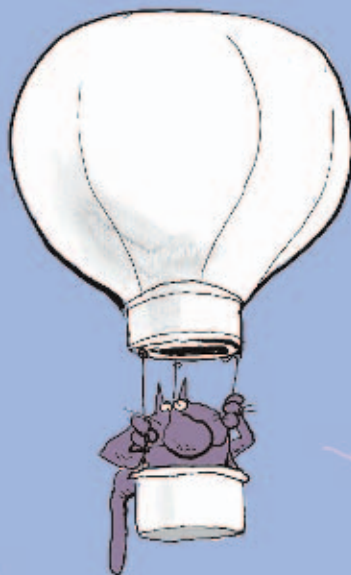
and

high

and

low,

as well as white and black.

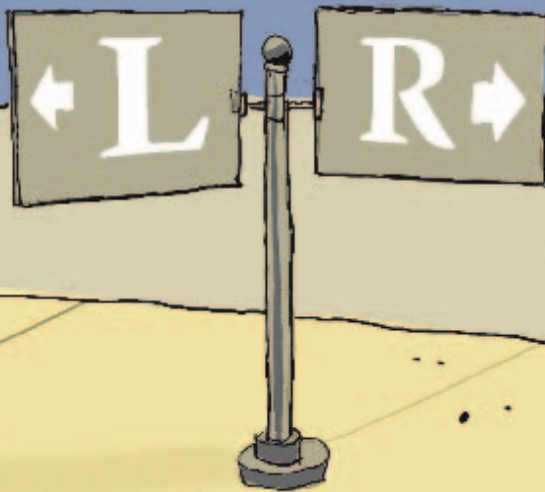


Up and down
are antonyms



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

left and right
and dark and light,

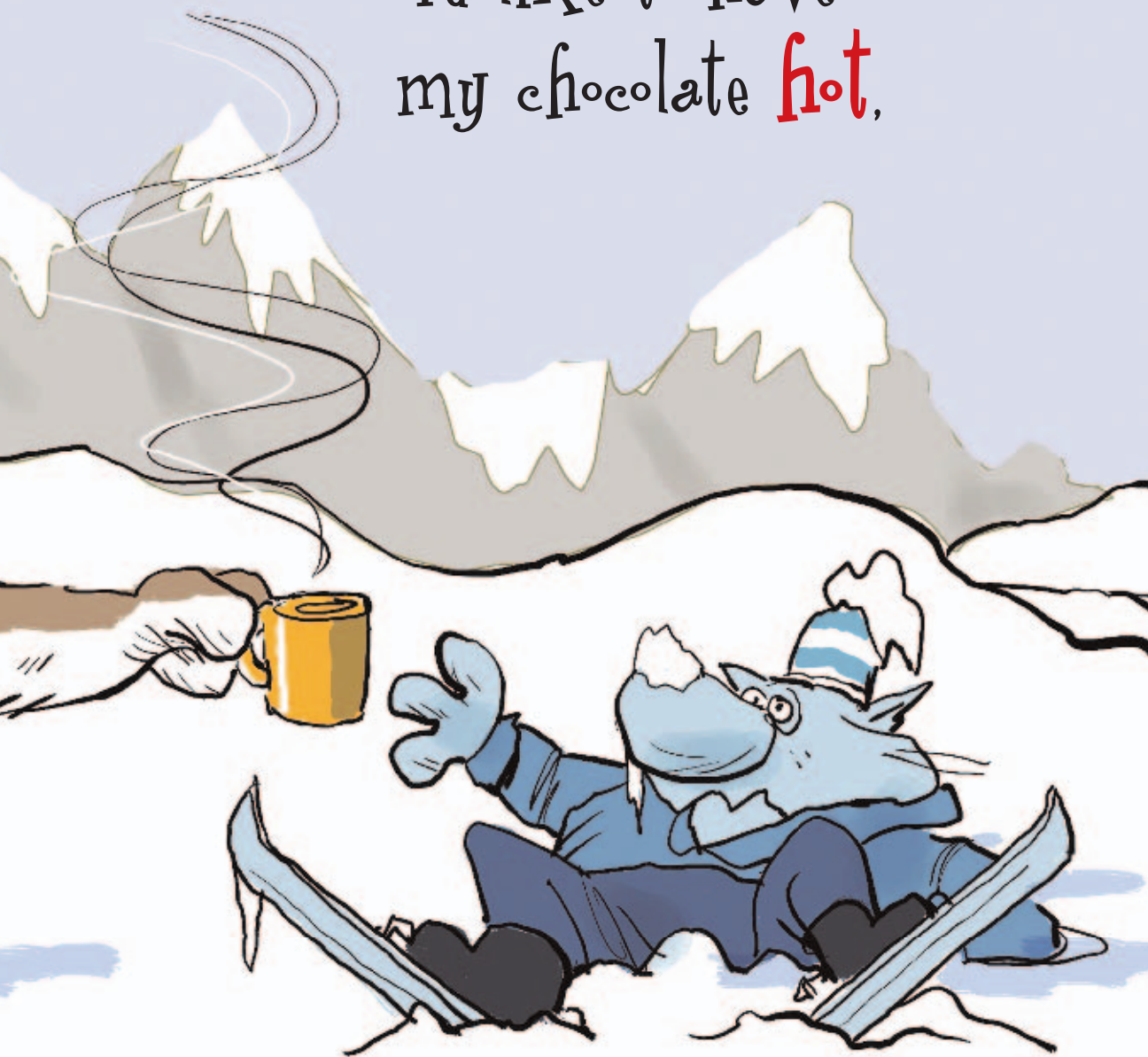


and also
rough
and
smooth.

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!"

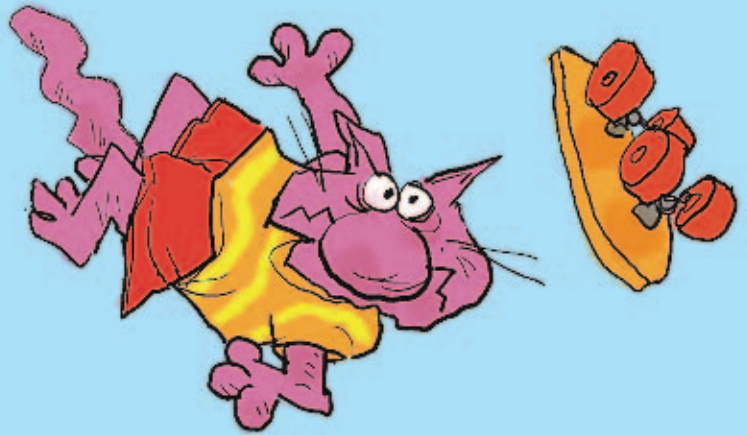
And what if we could only
ever say that we were *sad*?



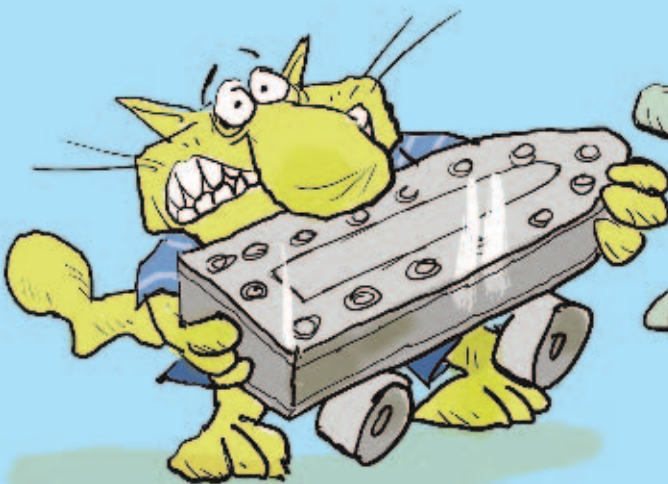
Because of antonyms,
when things are right,
we'll say we're glad.



Like **safe**
compared to **dangerous**,



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



shy to bold

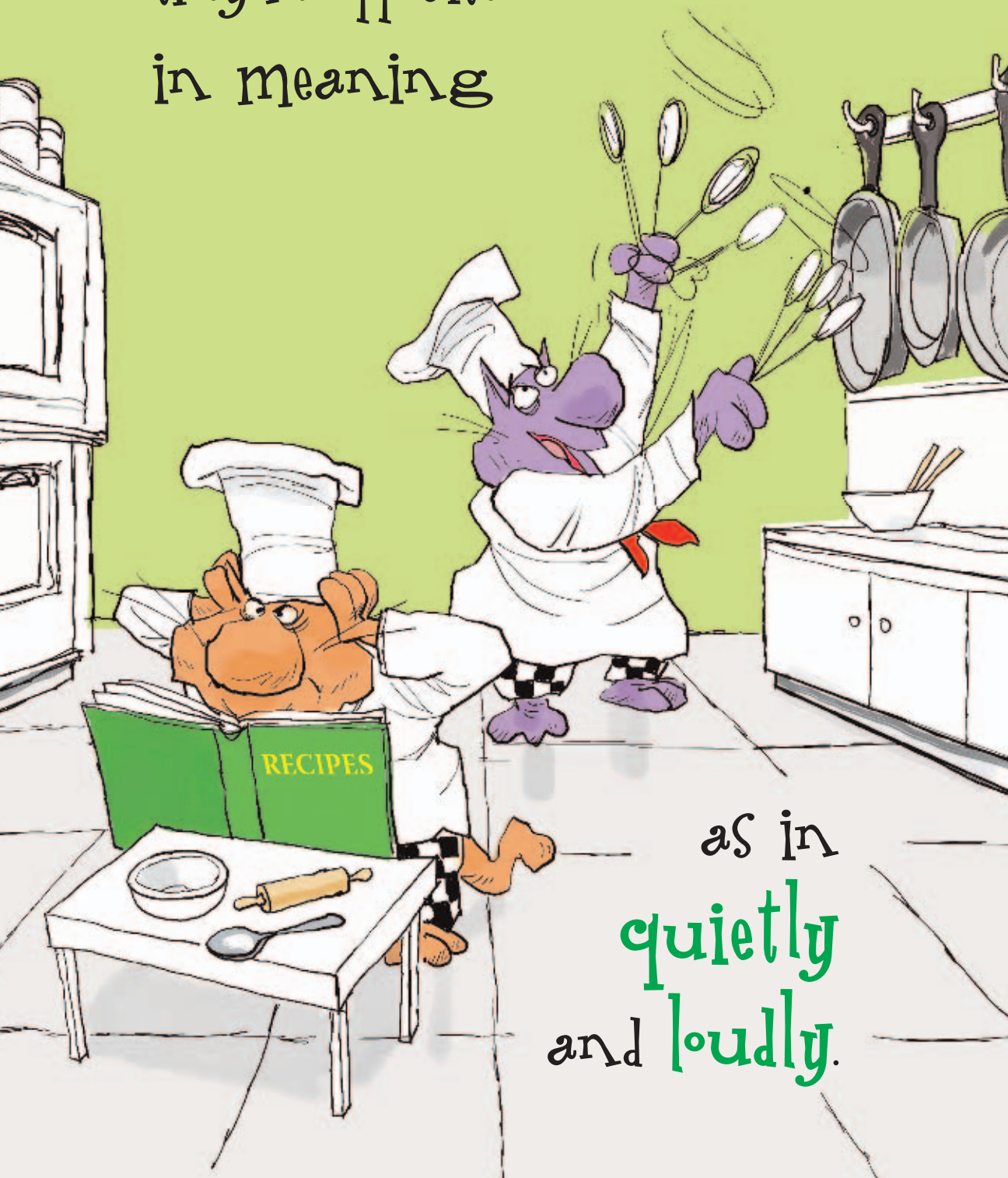


and young to old



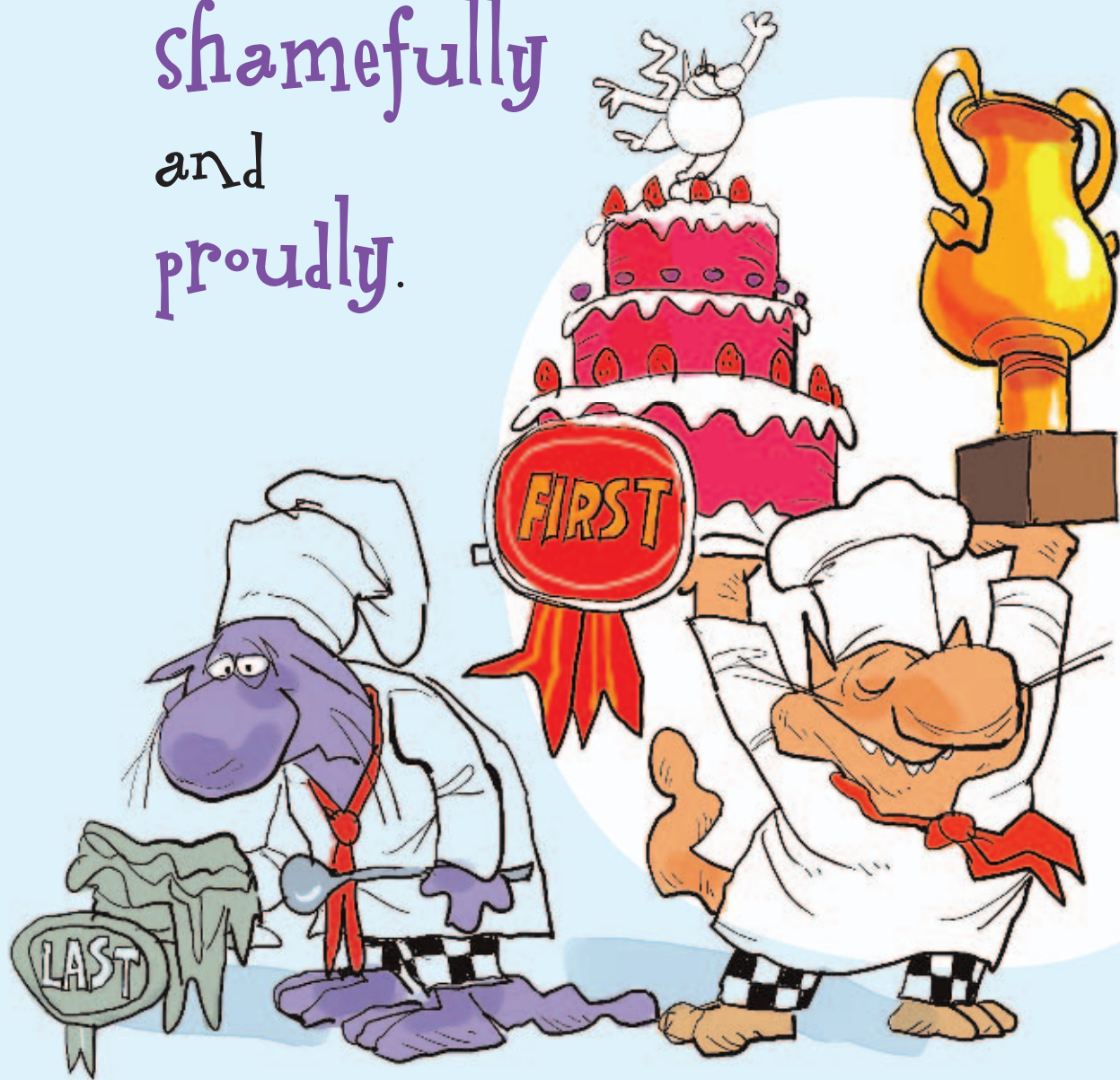
and even dim to bright,

they're opposite
in meaning

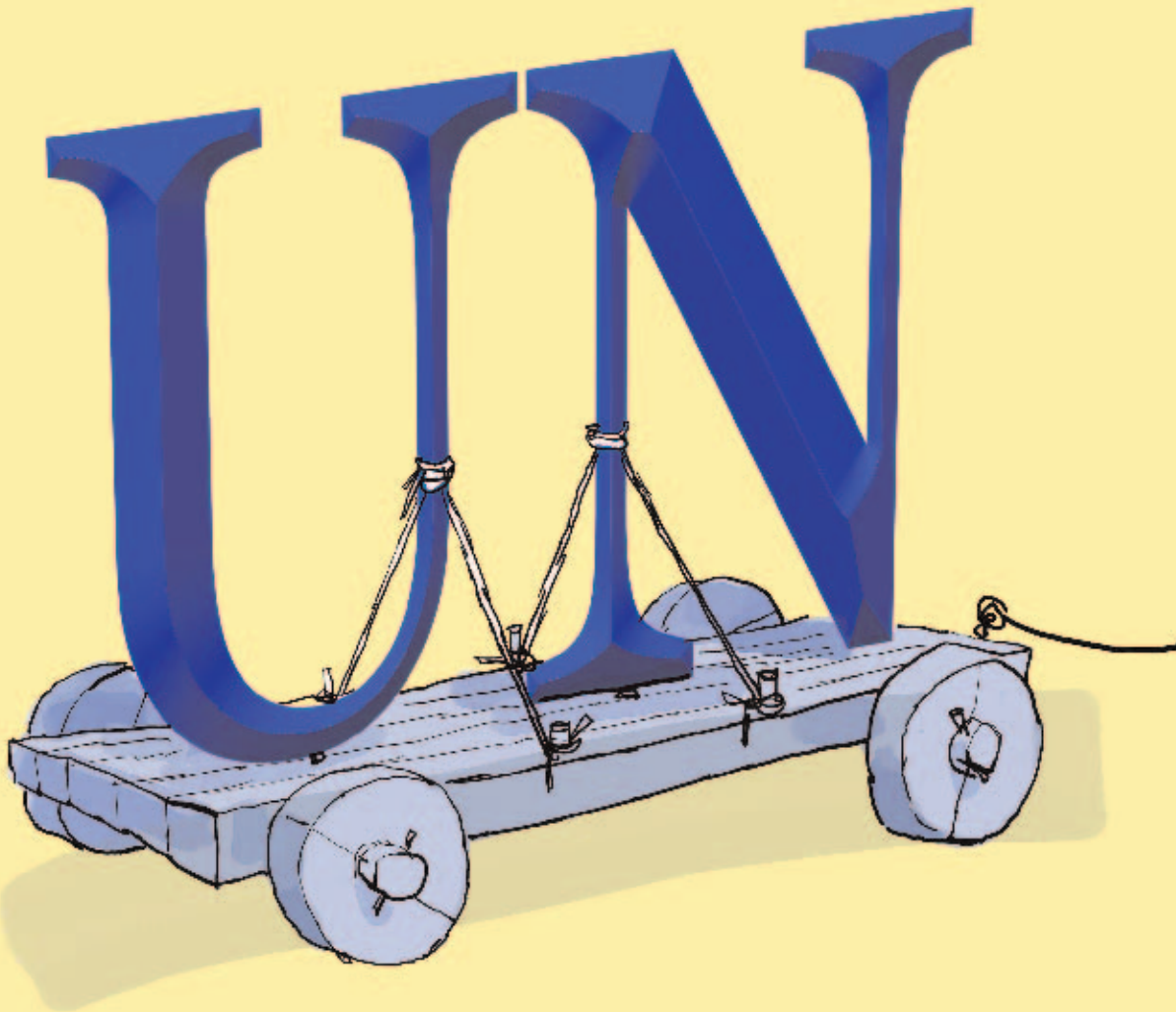


as in
quietly
and loudly.

They show a total contrast
just like
shamefully
and
proudly.



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

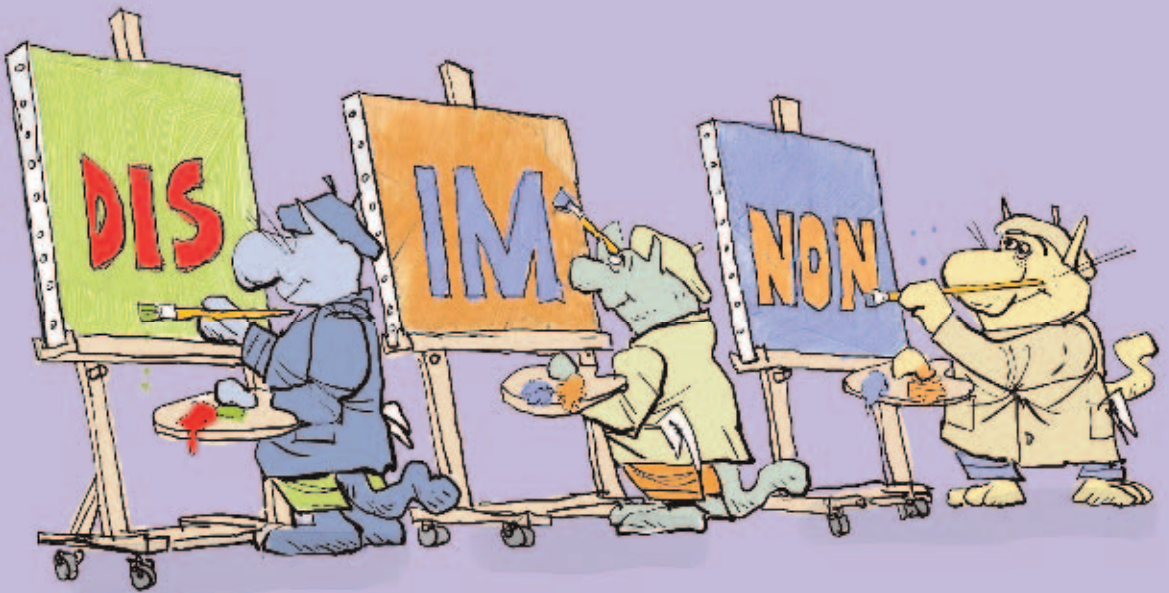


This is how we get
unkind,



unable,
and unheard.

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



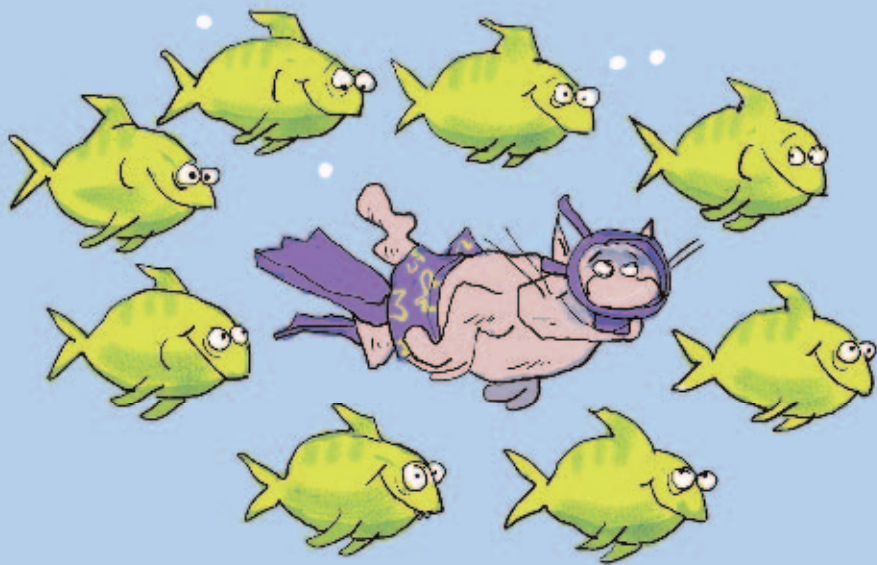
will help you build an
antonym
with these beginnings on.

For example,
disrespect,
impossible,
nonfiction.



Their prefixes are helpful
in displaying contradiction.

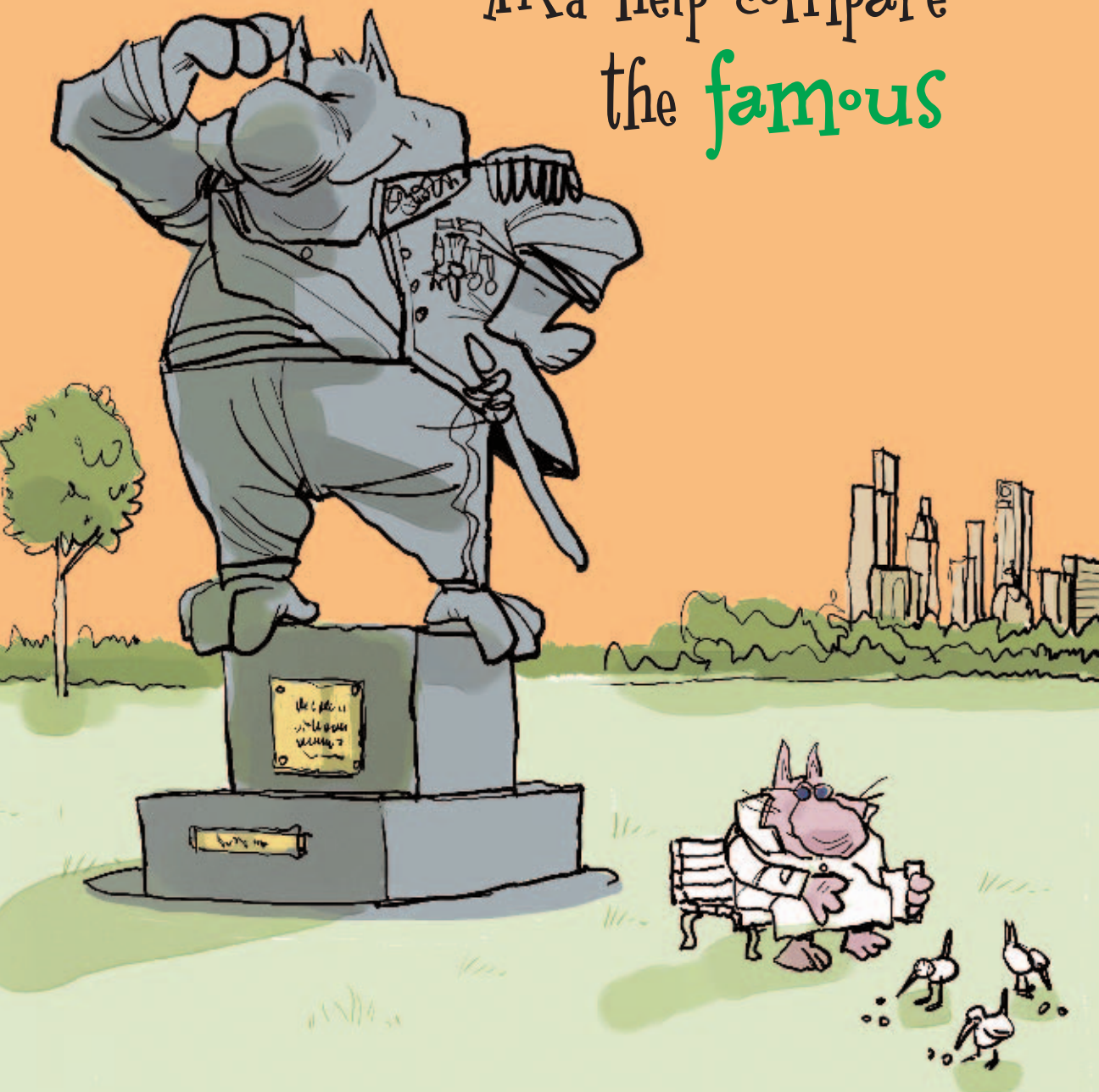
Antonyms help us divide



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.

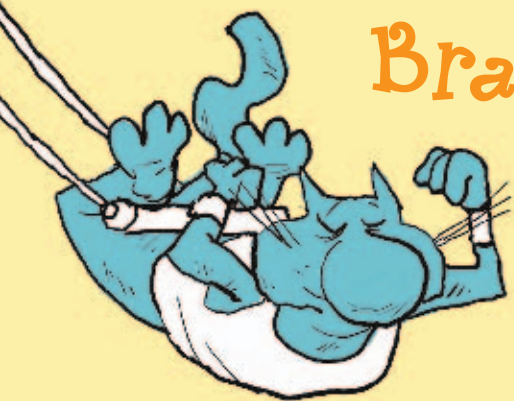


Like *hefty* and *diminutive*,



absurd and somewhat *normal*.





Bravery



and cowardice,



quite casual



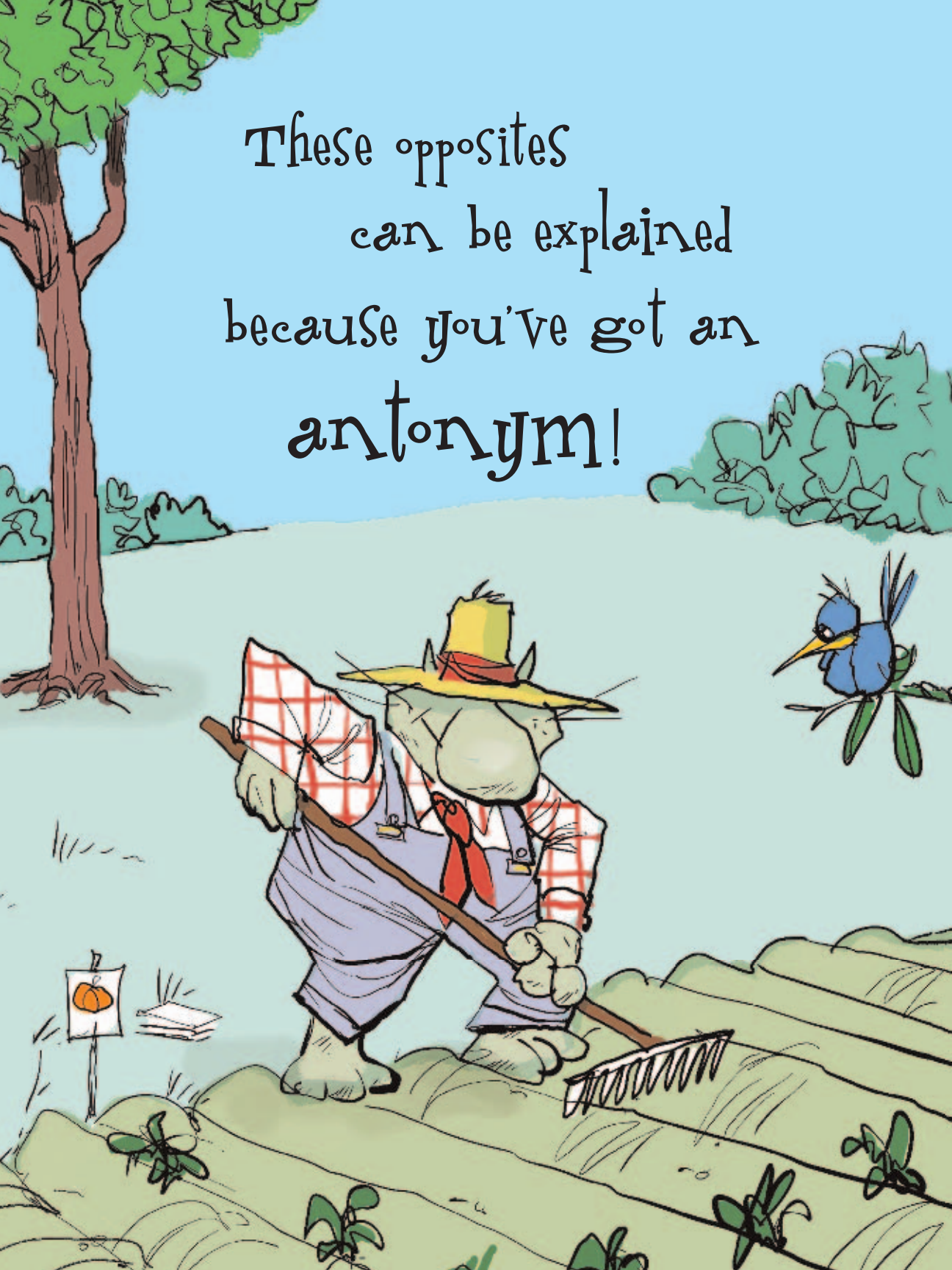
or formal.

In fall, the farmer
harvests crops.

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



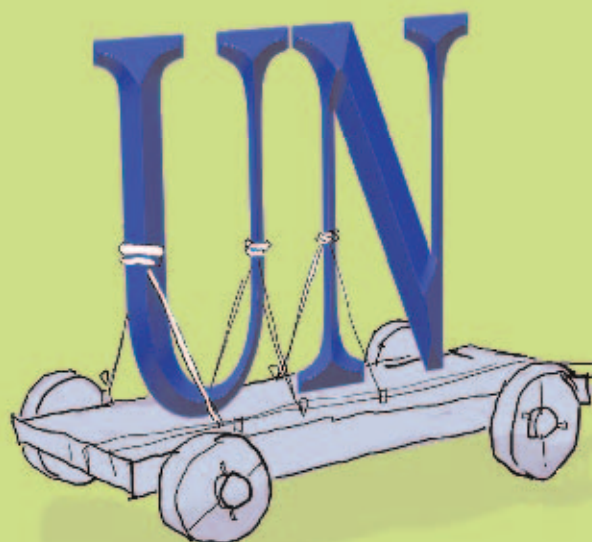
These opposites
can be explained
because you've got an
antonym!



So, what is an antonym?



Do you know?



ABOUT THE AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

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BRIAN GABLE is the illustrator of several **Words are Categorical™** books and the **Make Me Laugh!** joke books. He lives in Toronto, Ontario, with his wife and two children.

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