

## The Telltale Tail

At last, the sounds of laughter and conversation faded away. The lights turned off, and the doors clicked shut. Slinker poked his pointed nose out of his hole and sniffed the air, whiskers twitching. He couldn't smell any humans. He crept cautiously onto the kitchen floor, his belly almost touching the linoleum, and looked around the room. It seemed empty.

Moonlight spilled through the windows, painting everything with a soft silver glow. Slinker dashed across the floor to the table. In the shadow of the table leg, he paused, his small pink ears turning left and right as he listened intently. All was quiet. Slinker climbed quickly onto the tabletop. A feast of crumbs and leftovers was spread out before him. Crusty morsels of cheese, slivers of cold, greasy sausage, and splatters of unrecognizable sauces decorated the dirty plates and glassware. Oh, this was even better than he had hoped!

Slinker's hind feet scabbled against the wooden tabletop as he scurried about, nibbling on this and gnawing on that. Then, with a blissful sigh, he sank his sharp yellow teeth into a loaf of stale bread. He tunneled into the loaf like a miner into a mountain. Soon, only his long, naked tail could be seen dangling out of the bread.

At that moment, Midnight entered the kitchen on her nightly patrol. Sleek and confident, Midnight took her duties seriously and was proud of her ability to keep the house free of vermin. Leaping soundlessly onto the table, Midnight looked around suspiciously. She sensed that something was wrong, but what was it?

Considering the scene, Midnight sat back on her haunches and began to groom herself. She smoothed her whiskers with her paw and cleaned her fur with her rough tongue. Everything appeared to be in order. Inside the bread, Slinker suddenly stopped chewing, frozen in terror. What was that faint sound? Was it—purring?

### MONDAY

Match each word from the story to its definition on the right.

conversation

linoleum

intently

morsels

scabbled

haunches

- small pieces of food
- the upper parts of an animal's legs
- a type of floor covering
- scratched or scraped
- the spoken words between two or more people
- with great concentration

## TUESDAY

Use details from the passage to describe the setting, including the time and place.

---

---

---

## WEDNESDAY

Choose the correct answer.

1. Where does Slinker live?

Ⓐ in a hole

Ⓑ in a loaf of bread

Ⓒ in a garden

Ⓓ The passage does not say.

2. How often does Midnight check the kitchen?

Ⓐ every hour

Ⓑ twice a day

Ⓒ only when she hears noises

Ⓓ every night

3. From the title of the story, what do you infer will happen?

Ⓐ Slinker will tell Midnight a story.

Ⓑ Midnight will groom Slinker with her tongue.

Ⓒ Midnight will see Slinker's tail in the bread.

Ⓓ Slinker and Midnight will bite each other's tails.

## THURSDAY

Write S if the phrase describes Slinker. Write M if it describes Midnight.

- \_\_\_\_\_ cautious and careful
- \_\_\_\_\_ suspicious and serious
- \_\_\_\_\_ greedy and messy
- \_\_\_\_\_ confident and well-groomed
- \_\_\_\_\_ afraid of people

## FRIDAY

Who are Slinker and Midnight? Provide details from the story to support your answer.

---

---

---

---

---

---