

Past president, International Society of Stealthy Felines. Resigned in scandal. Likes to be held like a baby and scratch stuff.

GRANDMASTER, CAT CHESS.

GRIS
GRIS



JOKESTER AND ACTION EXPERT.



OWEN

Extreme dinosaur safari bungee jumping?
Owen is your guy.

EVIE



EXCELS AT: REINING IN CHARGE.

Don't let the cuteness fool you. This girl packs a punch.

THE FRIENDS

CICADA HUNTER AND MATH WHIZ.



SONJA

Also draws excellent rainbows.

WINSTON



Can quote stats from every World Cup final.*

*that he has been alive for

SPOTS HURT FEELINGS AND DISTRACTED GOALIES.

THE FAM

Mama:

Loving. No nonsense. Most often seen reading fantasy books or experimenting with bean desserts. Gives good hugs.



Baba:

Tall. Competitive. Competitive about being tall. Gives great piggy back rides. Prefers to be called "baba" which means "father" in Swahili. Does not speak Swahili.

Sissy:

Reader. Writer. Animal lover. Once gave up meat for 6 months, but was broken by the smell of turkey bacon. Plans to be the 1st PhD chemist to star in a Broadway musical.

ANIMAL OF MYSTERY

??????

Guinea Pig
never has the
same name two
weeks in a row.



This week, you may call him Zed.

Chapter 1

THE TROUBLE WITH BOOKS



Jaden Toussaint hated to read.

I mean he
really,



totally, honest to goodness



hated
reading, and
he avoided
it whenever
possible.

Unless there was a book light involved.
But, who doesn't like book lights?
Right?



The most annoying thing was, everyone in Jaden Toussaint's family was a reader.

His mom read fantasy books.

His sister read about fighting cats and Greek gods.

His father read books about becoming a better basketball, football, and soccer coach despite the fact that he actually programmed software for a living.

The three man
defense...

... they could think of
no way of getting rid
of Smaug...



Why was that annoying?

Because it made Jaden Toussaint feel lonely.

That was the real trouble with books. All that attention focused on the pages (and not on him) made Jaden Toussaint feel left out.

Grumble. Grumble. Discontent.

Um... guys? Guys?
Is anybody gonna play
with me? Hello?

You speak
from your heart,
young Firepaw.



Jaden Toussaint was a people person.

He liked to play
Toranpu cards



and conduct
experiments

and be
an animal
adventurer.



Everybody knows that you can't do any of that by yourself. Well...you can, but it wouldn't be nearly as much fun.

It was especially not fun when grown-ups kept telling you to tone your creature adventuring down to a dull roar.

Who ever heard of a lion with a dull roar? Ridiculous.



Once, Jaden Toussaint's father had been trying to finish reading *Rugby for Dummies*. Even though they were in the park with lots of other things to do, JT felt *so* lonely.

His father had taken pity on him and let him play with his phone—for 10 whole minutes—while he read the last few pages.

Those 10 minutes were grand. They were glorious. They were better than ice cream. Jaden Toussaint had never felt more brilliant. And for him, that was really saying something.

In the short but oh-so-sweet time the phone was in JT's possession, he added purple chickens to a farm, spelled 17 words, and learned that the name for a group of flamingoes is "flamboyance." A flamboyance of flamingoes. How cool is that?

The sum total of human knowledge was in the palm of his hand! With this smartphone he could do ANYTHING.



T	B	E	M	A	Q
S	K	V	C	R	V
O	T	D	W	G	X
Z	F	Y	N	A	F
D	I	C	L	T	B
K	O	P	A	C	V

RUGBY
FOR
DUMMIES