

# Dinner for Greedy Cat



by Joy Cowley

illustrated by  
Robyn Belton

Ready  
to Read

Published 2019 by the Ministry of Education,  
PO Box 1666, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.  
[www.education.govt.nz](http://www.education.govt.nz)

Text copyright © Joy Cowley 2019  
Illustrations copyright © Robyn Belton 2019

The texture on the front and back covers is by [blog.spoongraphics](http://blog.spoongraphics.com) from [goo.gl/6pDEVQ](http://goo.gl/6pDEVQ)  
and is used under a Creative Commons licence (CC BY 2.0).

All rights reserved.  
Enquiries should be made to the publisher.

Publishing services: Lift Education E Tū  
Series Editor: Bernadette Wilson  
Designer: Simon Waterfield  
Series Consultant: Kay Hancock  
Consulting Editors: Hōne Apanui and Emeli Sione

ISBN 978 1 77669 440 2 (print)  
ISBN 978 1 77663 591 7 (online)

Replacement copies may be ordered from Ministry of Education Customer Services,  
online at [www.thechair.co.nz](http://www.thechair.co.nz)  
by email: [orders@thechair.minedu.govt.nz](mailto:orders@thechair.minedu.govt.nz)  
or freephone 0800 660 662  
Please quote item number 69440.

The teacher support material (TSM) and audio for this text  
can be found online at [www.readytoread.tki.org.nz](http://www.readytoread.tki.org.nz)

**Anaru** (Ah-na-roo)

**puku** (puh-koo): stomach

**E ngeru** (E ngeh-roo – “E” as in  
“egg”, “ng” as in “sing”):  
Hey, cat!

**nui** (noo-ee): big

**Rata** (Rah-tah)

**Haere ra** (Hi-reh ra): good-bye

For more support with pronunciation, go to [www.readytoread.tki.org.nz](http://www.readytoread.tki.org.nz)  
to hear an audio version of the text.

# Dinner for Greedy Cat



by Joy Cowley  
illustrated by Robyn Belton

Greedy Cat sniffed the air. Mr Rata and his boy Anaru were in their garden, cooking fish on their barbecue. The wonderful smell made Greedy Cat quiver with hunger. His whiskers shook, and his mouth dribbled.



The house next door was not *his* house, and it was not *his* dinner time, but that didn't matter to Greedy Cat. He climbed up the fence and plopped down the other side.

There it all was – the fish, the barbecue, and the delicious smell. Greedy Cat looked at Mr Rata and Anaru and meowed a loud and hungry meow.



“E ngeru!” said Mr Rata. “Are you hungry? Have a fish! We fished off the wharf today, and we caught all these.” He threw a fish to Greedy Cat, who caught it in his mouth.



Anaru laughed and said, “A fat fish for a fat cat!”

Greedy Cat gobbled down the fish. It was delicious, but it was small. One fish was not enough. He needed more. “Meow? Meow? Meow?” begged Greedy Cat.

“Ngeru, you are so greedy!” said Mr Rata. He gave Greedy Cat another fish, then another, and another! Greedy Cat gobbled them down as fast as he could. He purred as he ate, but when he finished eating, he still wanted more. He rubbed his head against Anaru’s legs.



“He’s got a bottomless puku!” Anaru said to his father. “That cat has eaten four fish!”

Mr Rata shook his head at Greedy Cat.  
“That’s enough. You need to go home, ngeru nui!  
You’re so greedy, you will eat all our fish,  
and there will be none left for us.”

He reached into the bucket  
and took out a little fish.  
“Here is one more fish for you.  
Eat it, and then go back home.”



Greedy Cat ate the fish and then waddled to the fence,  
but he was so full of fish that he could not climb it.  
Mr Rata came over to help.

“E ngeru! This is like going to the gym,”  
he grunted as he pushed Greedy Cat over the fence.  
“Haere ra, ngeru nui!” he said.



Greedy Cat waddled into the kitchen.

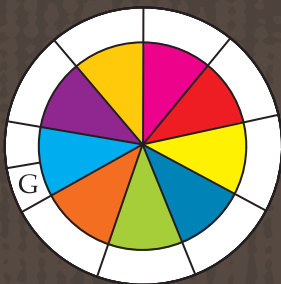
“There you are,” said Katie. “Here’s your dinner.”  
She gave him a bowl of his favourite cat biscuits,  
but Greedy Cat just sniffed it and turned away.

“What’s wrong with Greedy Cat?” asked Katie.

“He won’t eat his dinner. He must be sick!”

“Don’t worry,” said Mum. “I think he will be just fine.”





The teacher support material (TSM) and audio for Ready to Read texts can be found online at [www.readytoread.tki.org.nz](http://www.readytoread.tki.org.nz)

To go directly to audio and TSM for this book, scan the QR code or use the short URL.



Dinner for  
Greedy Cat

[bit.ly/2IkIea8](https://bit.ly/2IkIea8)



**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**  
TE TĀHUHU O TE MĀTAURANGA

[New Zealand Government](http://www.govt.nz)

