




A Kitten Named Birthday

Today a kitten came to live at Sarah's house. Sarah's brother Benny brought it into the house right after breakfast. A little cuddly kitten with soft orange fur. A little wiggly kitten with a scratchy pink tongue and tiny claws like pins.

Sarah's eyes grew big and round with surprise. She was very pleased.

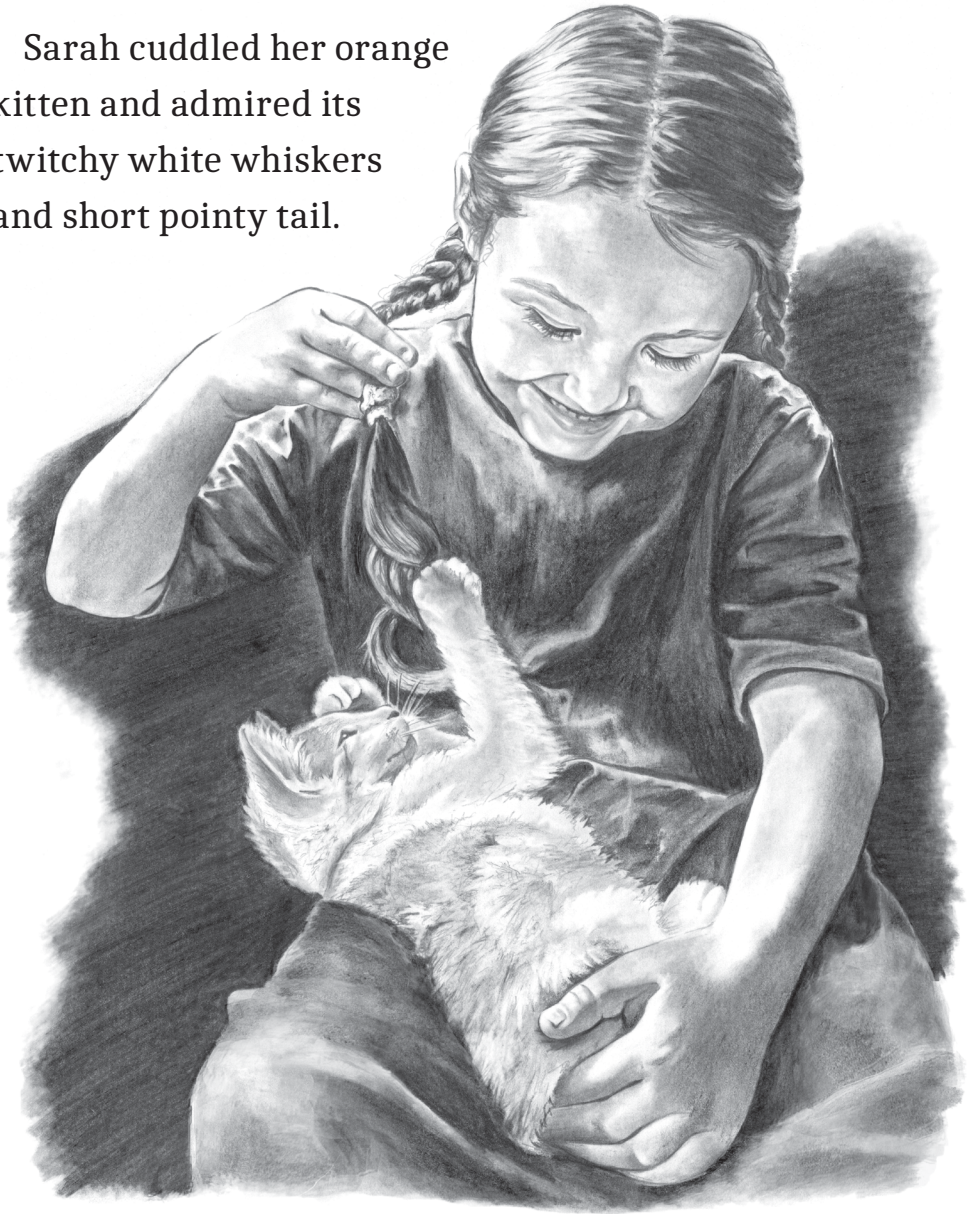




“Happy birthday to you!” Mama and Daddy and Benny sang. “Happy birthday, dear Sarah! Happy birthday to you!”

Sarah smiled and smiled as she watched her family’s hands singing “Happy Birthday.” Today she was six years old. Sarah’s shiny brown eyes could see just fine, but her ears could not hear well. That is why Mama and Daddy and Benny used their hands to sing “Happy Birthday.” With her hearing aids, Sarah could hear some of the sounds of the song.

Sarah cuddled her orange kitten and admired its twitchy white whiskers and short pointy tail.



The kitten looked at Sarah with its bright eyes and admired the curl at the end of her braid. It stretched out a paw and caught the curl. Sarah giggled. "Kitty likes me," she signed to Mama.

"What will you name the kitty?" Mama asked.

Sarah tilted her head and thought. "I name him Birthday," she decided. "Today I am six. Soon I will go to school."

Like a seed, a question had been lying quietly in Sarah's mind. The thought of school made the tiny seed sprout, but she did not know how to ask the question.

Mama handed Sarah a small bowl of milk. "Here is milk for Birthday," she signed. "Let's put it here on the floor."

Sarah put the bowl down carefully and placed Birthday in front of it. Right away the kitten sniffed the good milk smell, and his little pink tongue began to go in and out, in and out, licking up the milk.