



AN EKLAVYA PUBLICATION

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A picture story



V. SUTEYEV

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THE MOUSE AND THE PENCIL



One day a little mouse was looking for something to eat. He found a pencil.





The mouse ran off to his hole with the pencil. "Do let me go!" begged the pencil. "What use am I to you? I'm only a piece of wood, I'm not good to eat."



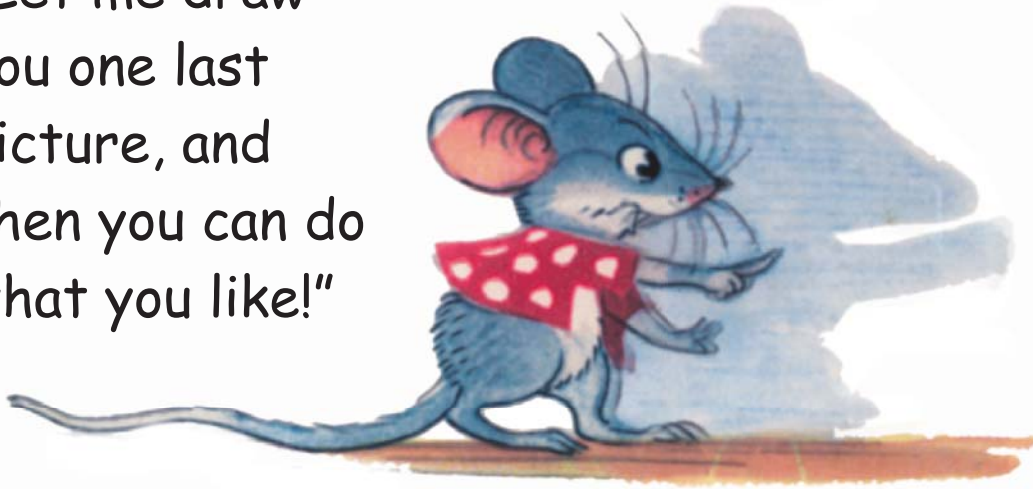


"I'm going to gnaw you! said the mouse.
I have to gnaw something all the time to keep
my teeth sharp. Here I go!
And he bit the pencil hard.



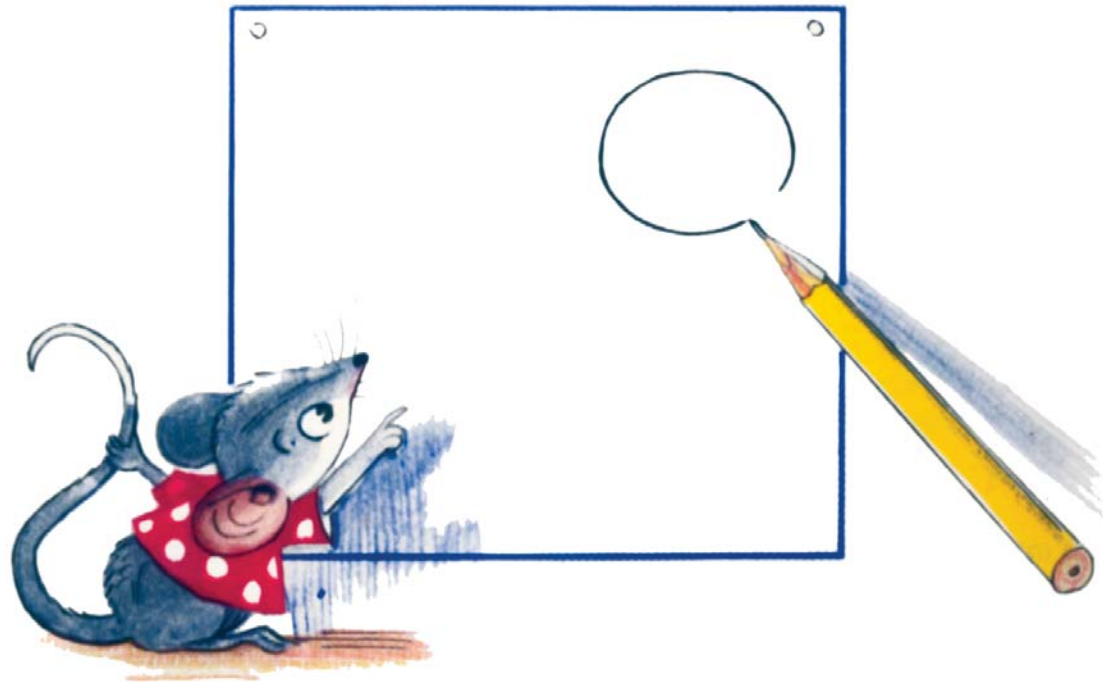
"You're hurting me!" said the pencil.

"Let me draw you one last picture, and then you can do what you like!"



"Very well," agreed the mouse. "You draw something. I shall gnaw you into tiny pieces afterwards!"

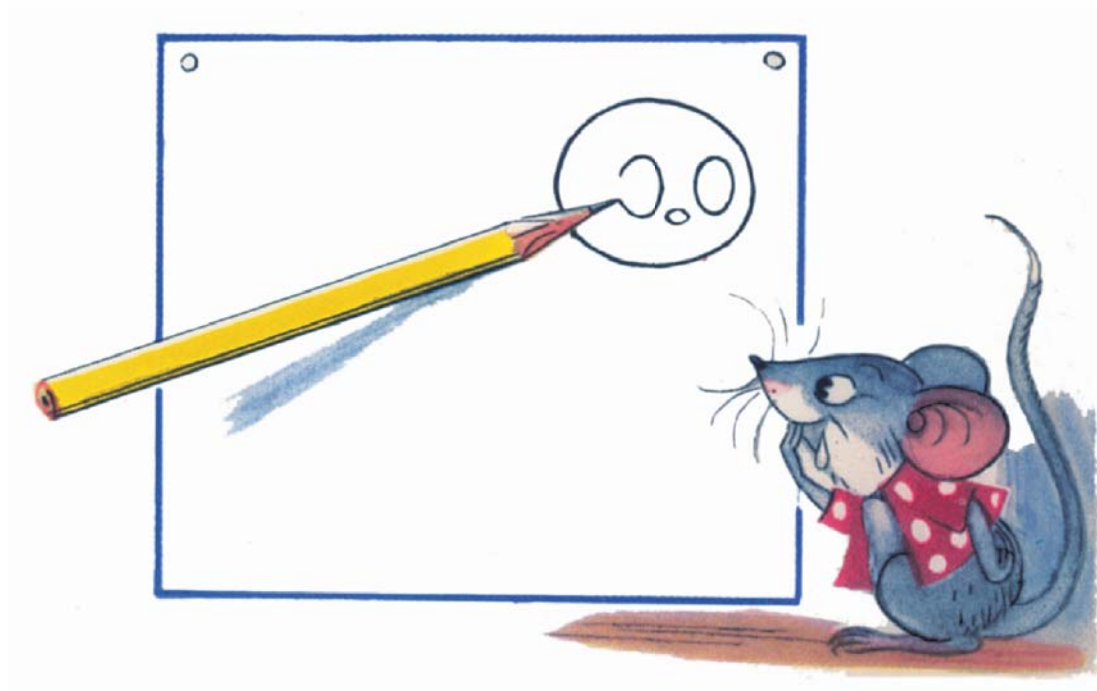




The pencil sighed heavily, and drew a big circle.

"Is that a cheese?" asked the mouse.

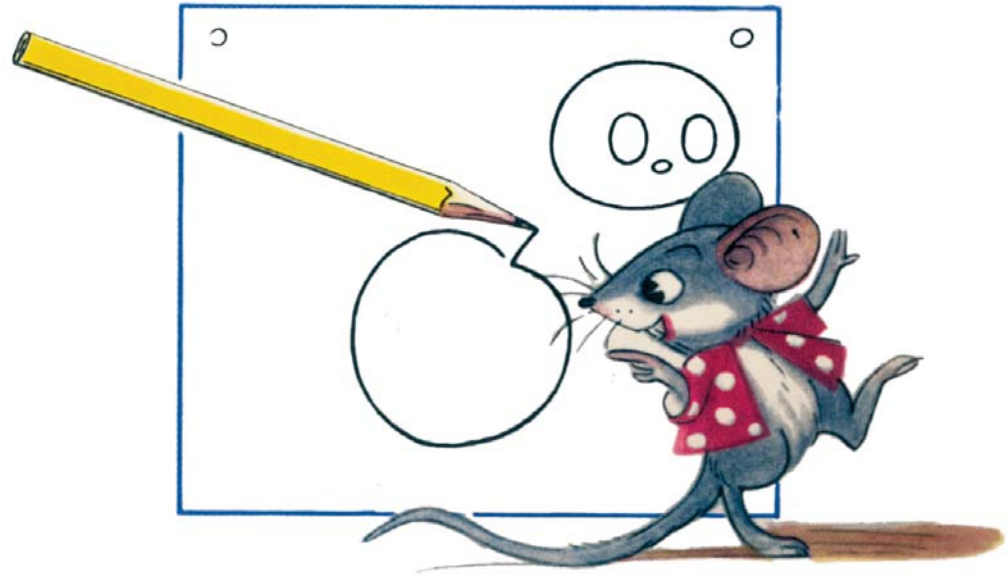




"We'll call it a cheese," said the Pencil, and it drew three little circles inside the big one.



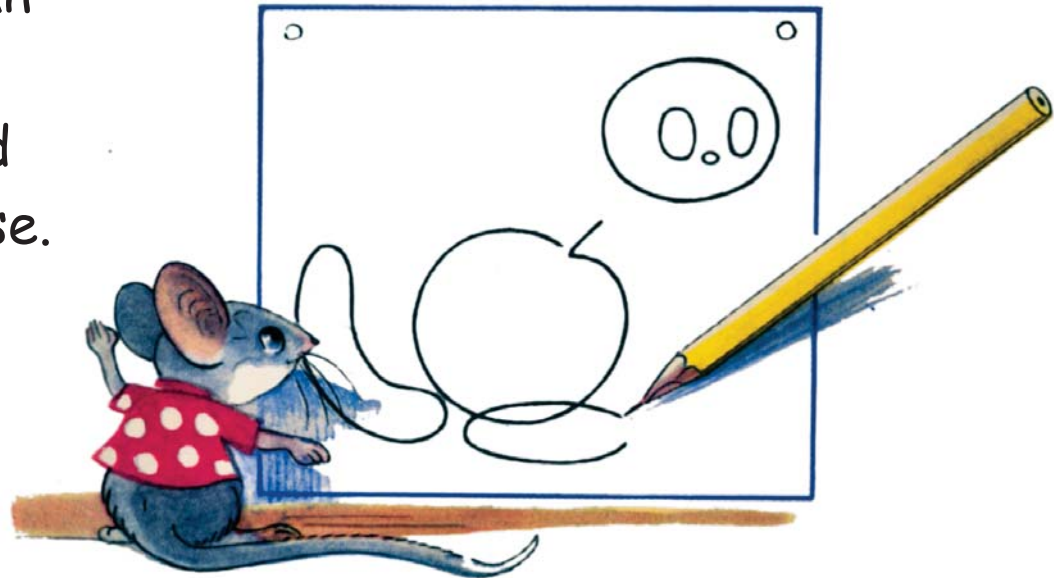
"I can see
it's cheese
now," said
the mouse.
"Look at
those holes
in it."



"Let's call them holes in the cheese," agreed
the pencil, and it drew another circle under
the first one.



"That's an
apple,"
squeaked
the mouse.

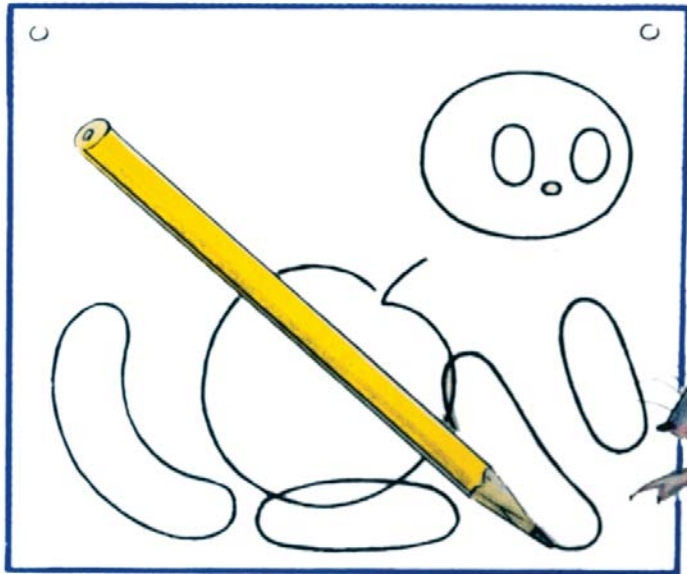


"Let's call it an apple," said the pencil, and it
began drawing some funny curved things near
the second circle.

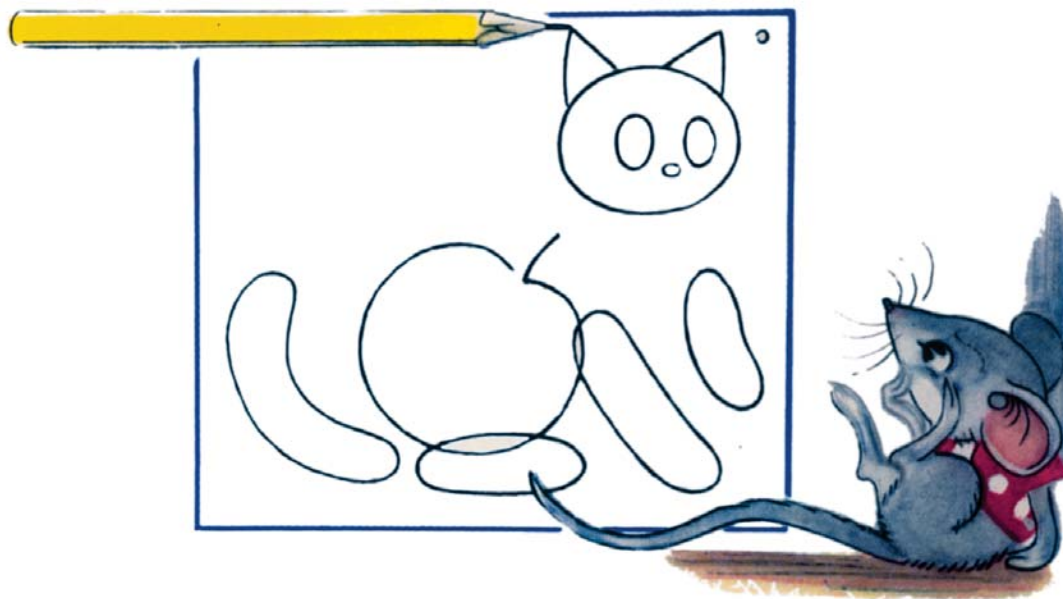


"Why, those are cucumbers," said the mouse, licking his lips.

"I wish you'd hurry. I simply can't wait to get my teeth into them!"

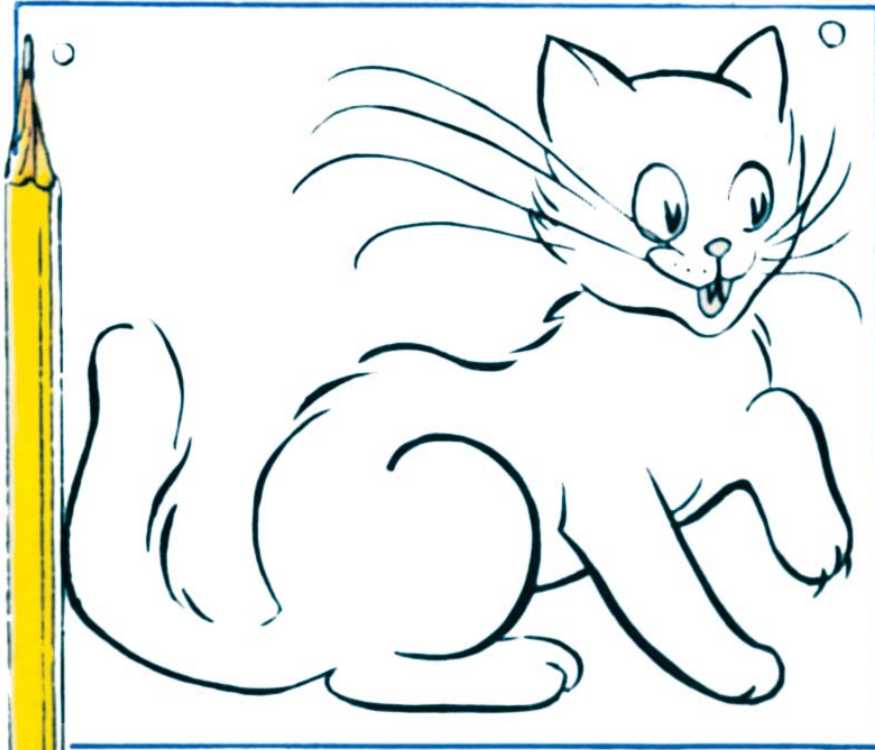


The pencil drew two little triangles on the top circle.



"Oh, oh!" squeaked the mouse. "Now you've made it like a cat! Don't go on!"

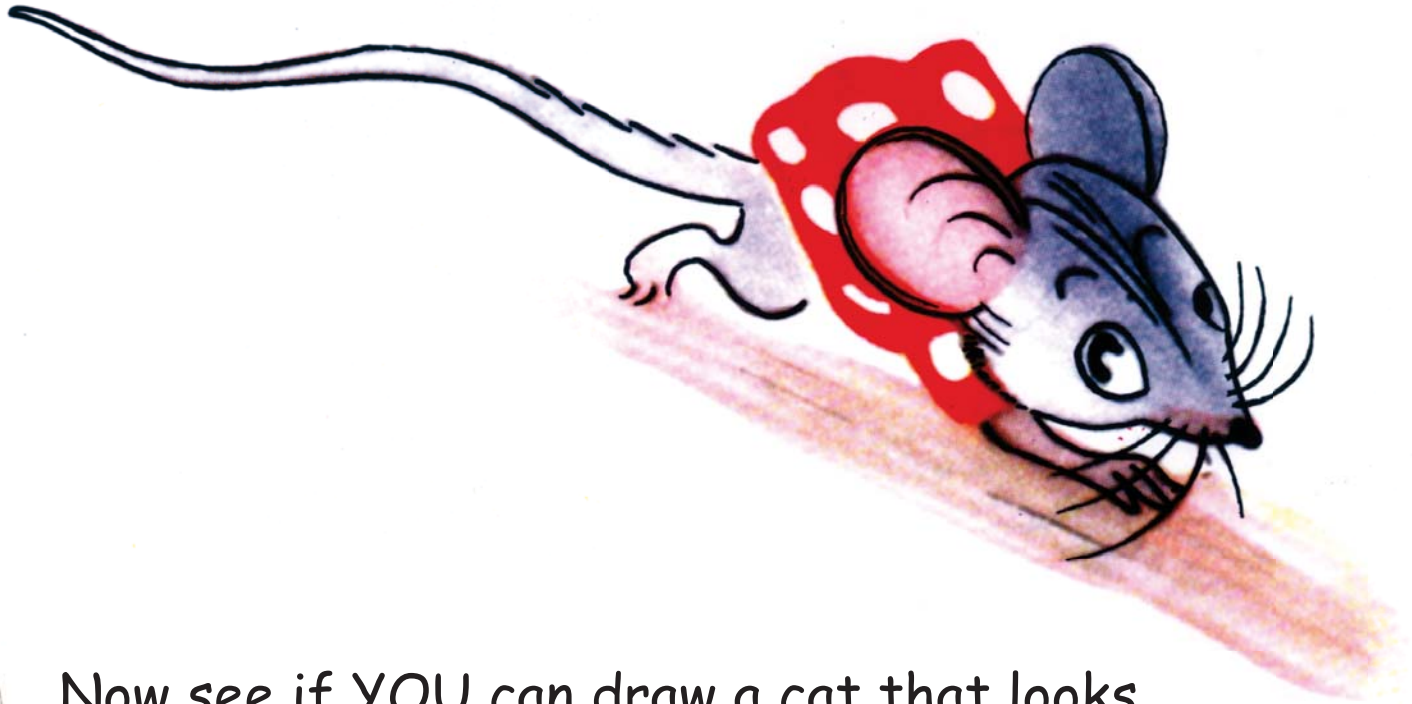




But the pencil went on, till it had drawn long whiskers and a mouth on the top circle.



And the mouse cried out in terror, "It's a real cat!
Help!"



Now see if YOU can draw a cat that looks
real enough to frighten away the mice!

