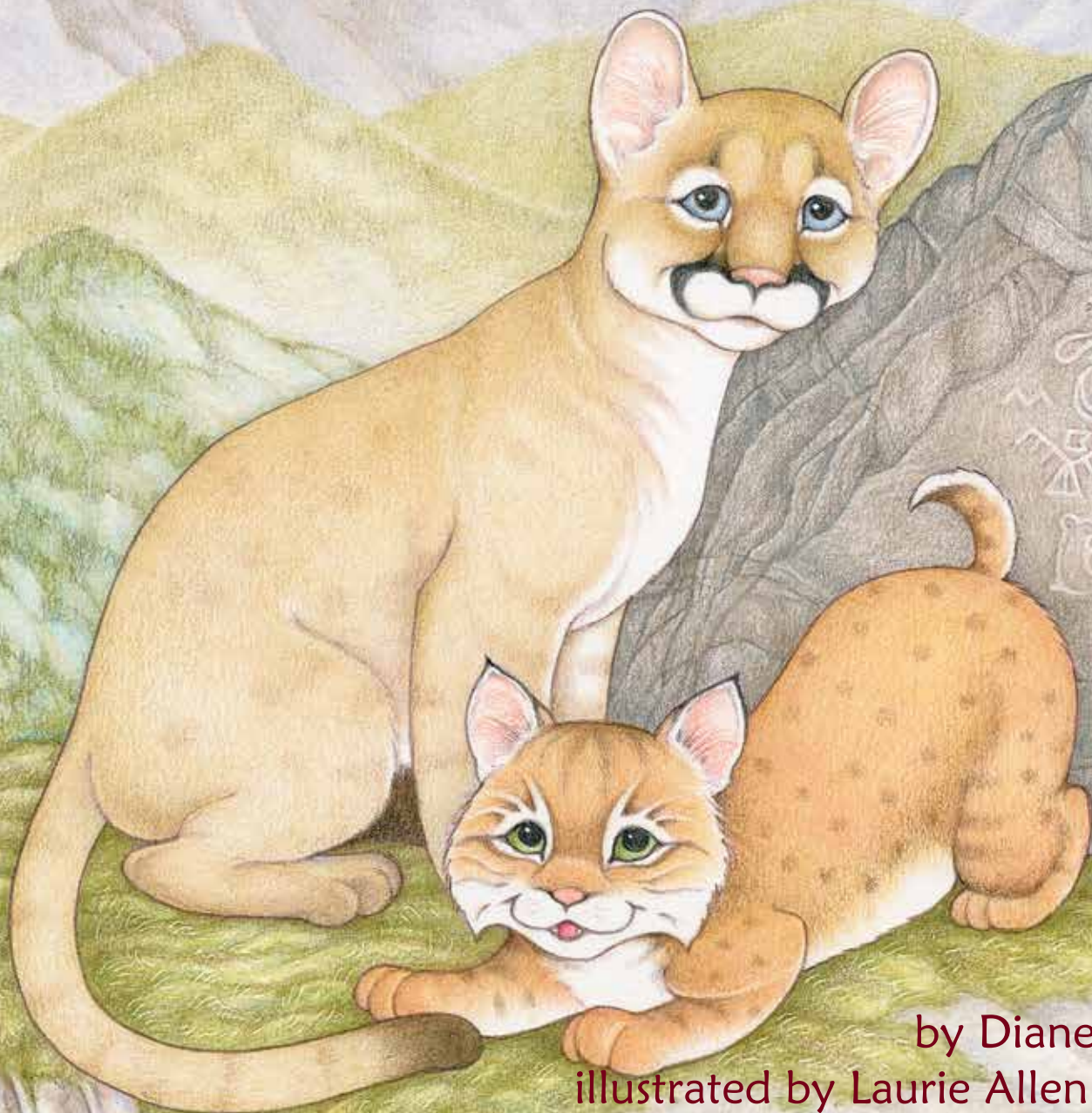


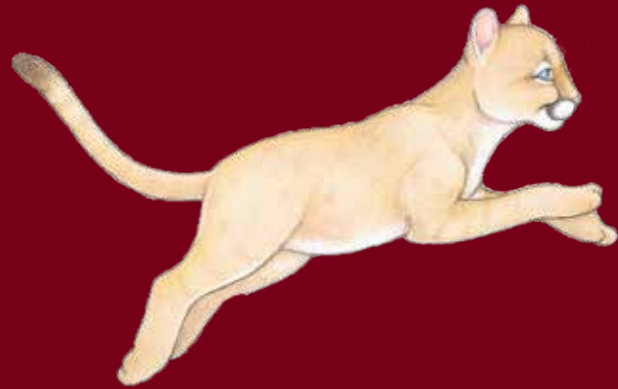
# The Long and Short Tale of Colo and Ruff



by Diane Lang  
illustrated by Laurie Allen Klein

# The Long and Short Tale of Colo and Ruff

Colo the cougar and her friend Ruff the bobcat jump and play together, but they find that Ruff can't jump nearly as far as Colo. Ruff doesn't have a long, swishy tail like Colo does, to provide balance on long leaps. Ruff's tail is much shorter. He is sure that something is wrong with him. The sympathetic Colo suggests that they go find a tail that Ruff would like better, so off they go. As the two kittens explore the variety of tails worn by other animals, they make the best discovery of all.



Arbordale Publishing offers so much more than a picture book. We open the door for children to explore the facts behind a story they love.

Thanks to Tiffany Dollins and Hardy Kern, Animal Program Specialists at the Columbus Zoo for ensuring the accuracy of the information in this book.

The *For Creative Minds* includes

- Cat Comparisons
- Cat Maps
- Tail Adaptations
- Match the Tail

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**Diane Lang** volunteers at two different nature centers where she gives programs and classes to share nature with young children—and that love of sharing nature led her to her writing picture books. In addition to authoring *The Long and Short Tale of Colo and Ruff* for Arbordale, Diane's other books include *Daytime, Nighttime, All Through the Year*; *Vulture Verses*, *Love Poems for the Unloved* and *Fur, Feather, Fin: All of Us Are Kin*. Diane lives in California with her husband and several beloved pets—a gentle snake, two dogs, two tortoises, and two sweet tarantulas. Visit her website at [www.dianelang.net](http://www.dianelang.net).

Award-winning illustrator **Laurie Allen Klein** has been a freelance artist for nearly 25 years. Over the last several years, she has worked as the on-staff artist for a marine park, where she does everything from painting life-size sea animal murals, to illustrating children's activity books. Laurie has also illustrated *Dear Komodo Dragon*, *Saving Kate's Flowers*, *Balloon Trees*, *Fur and Feathers*, *The Ghost of Donley Farm*, *If a Dolphin Were a Fish*, *Little Skink's Tail*, *Meet the Planets*, *Solar System Forecast*, *They Just Know* and *Where Should Turtle Be?* for Arbordale. Laurie lives in Florida. See more of her artwork at [www.lauriekleinarts.com](http://www.lauriekleinarts.com).

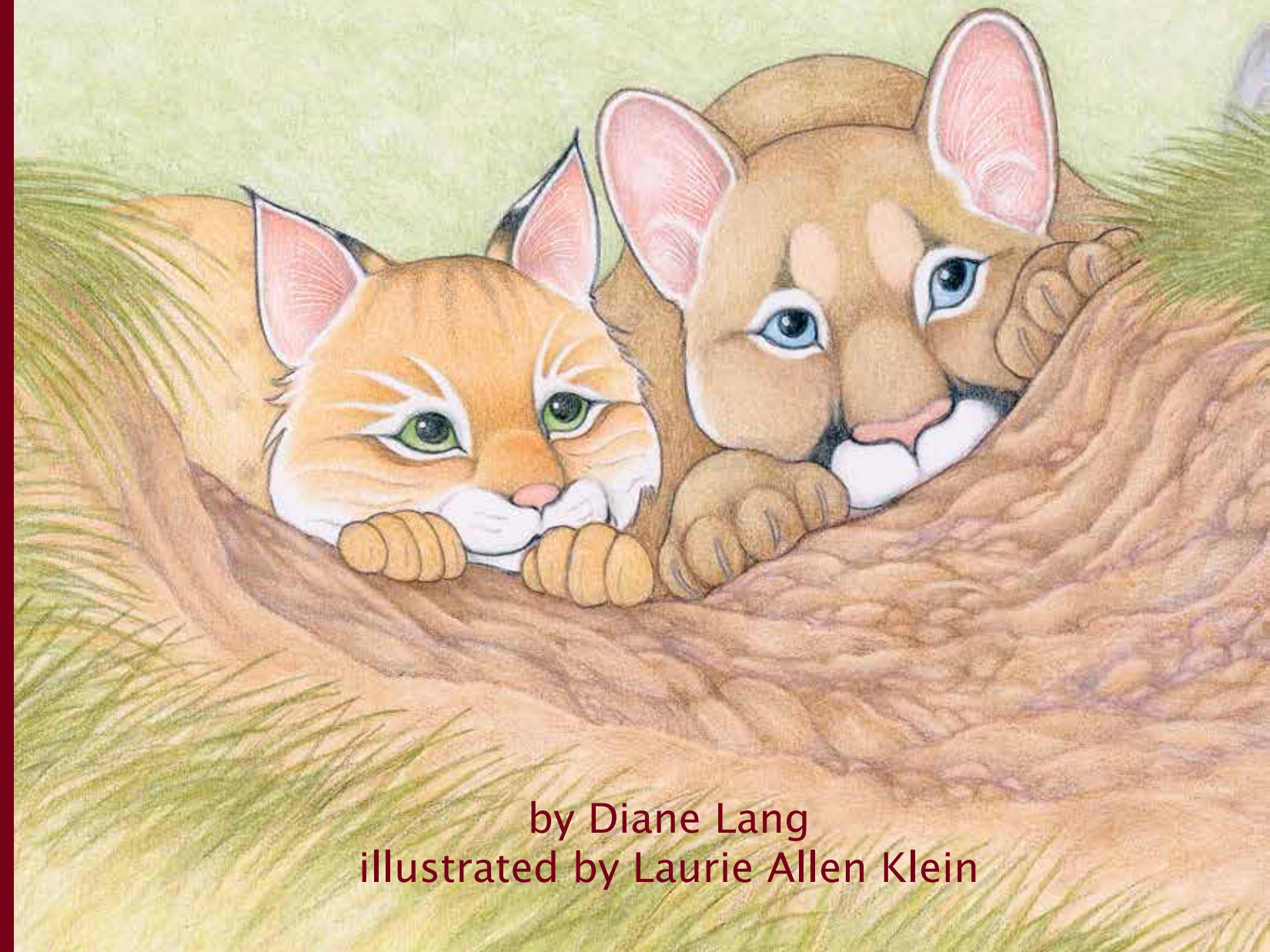


Diane Lang



Laurie Allen Klein

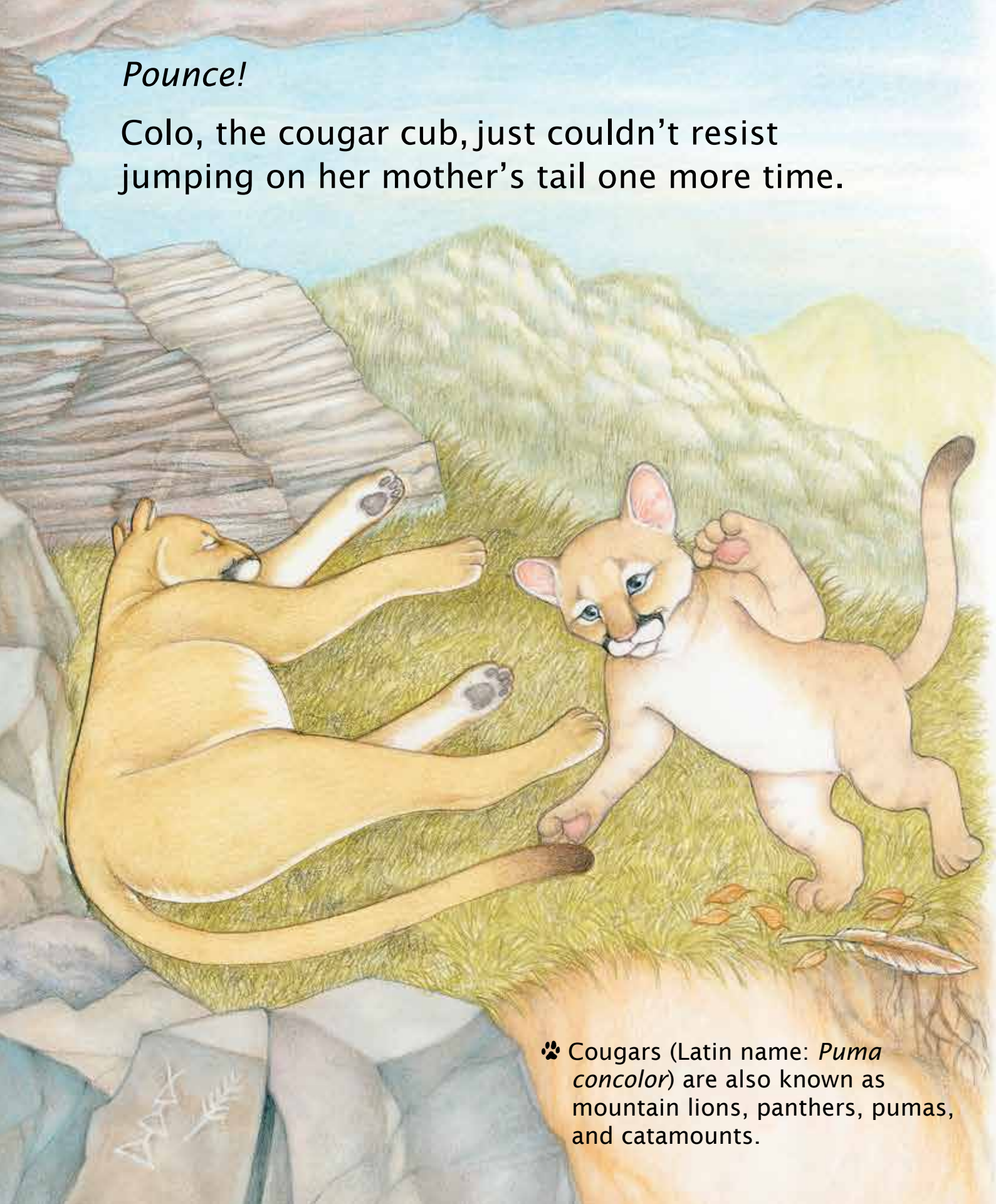
# The Long and Short Tale of Colo and Ruff



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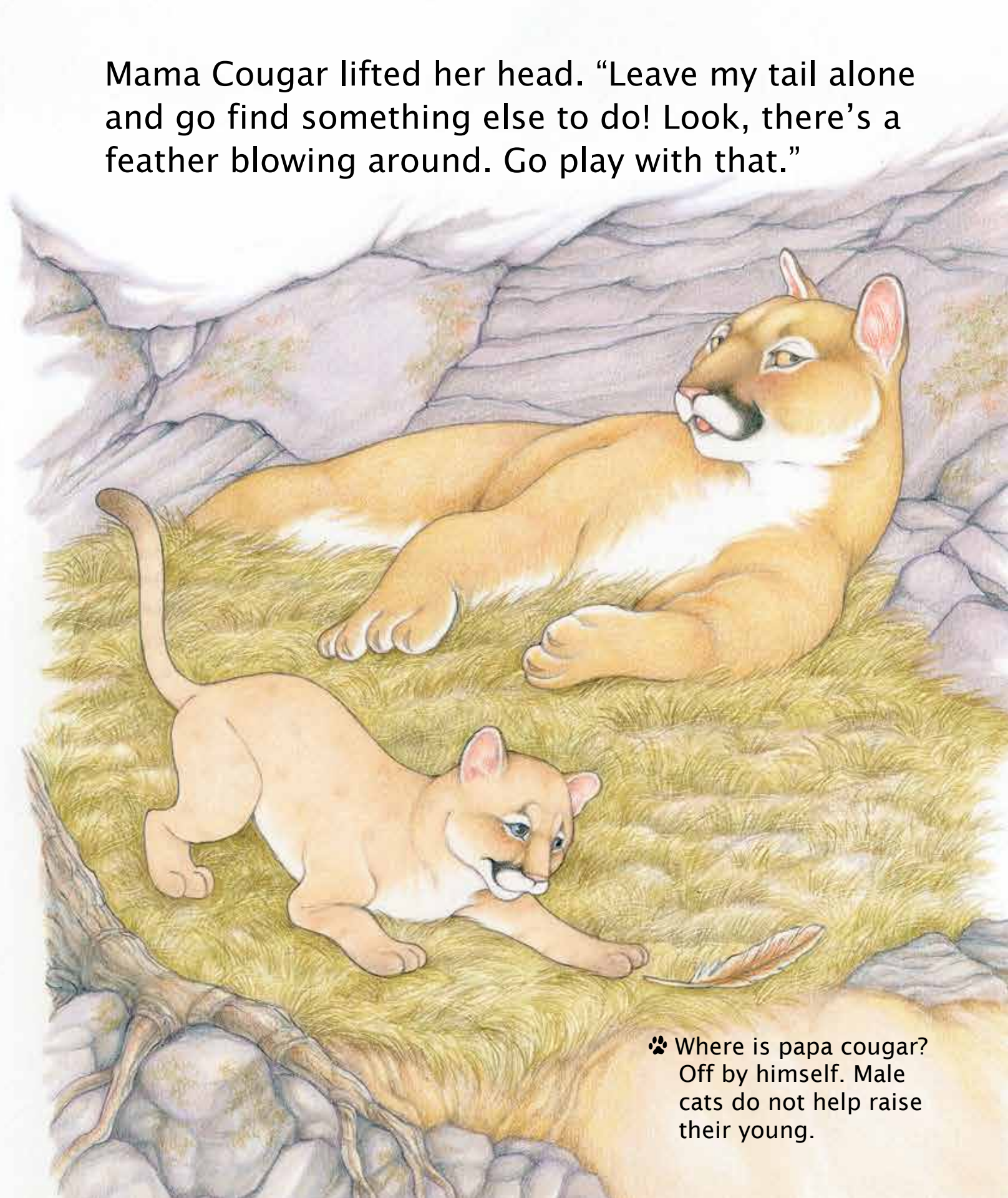
*Pounce!*

Colo, the cougar cub, just couldn't resist jumping on her mother's tail one more time.



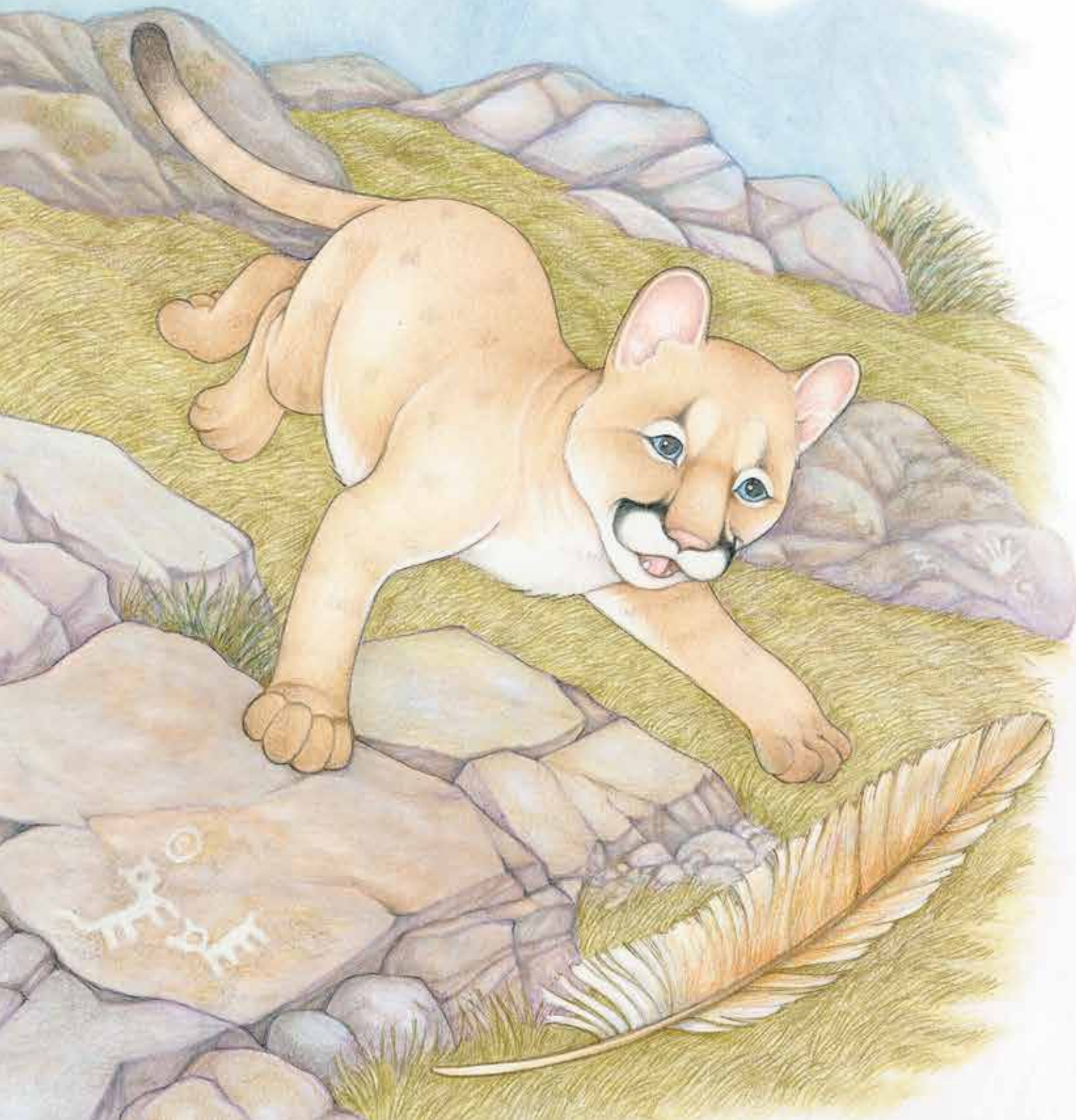
🐾 Cougars (Latin name: *Puma concolor*) are also known as mountain lions, panthers, pumas, and catamounts.

Mama Cougar lifted her head. "Leave my tail alone and go find something else to do! Look, there's a feather blowing around. Go play with that."

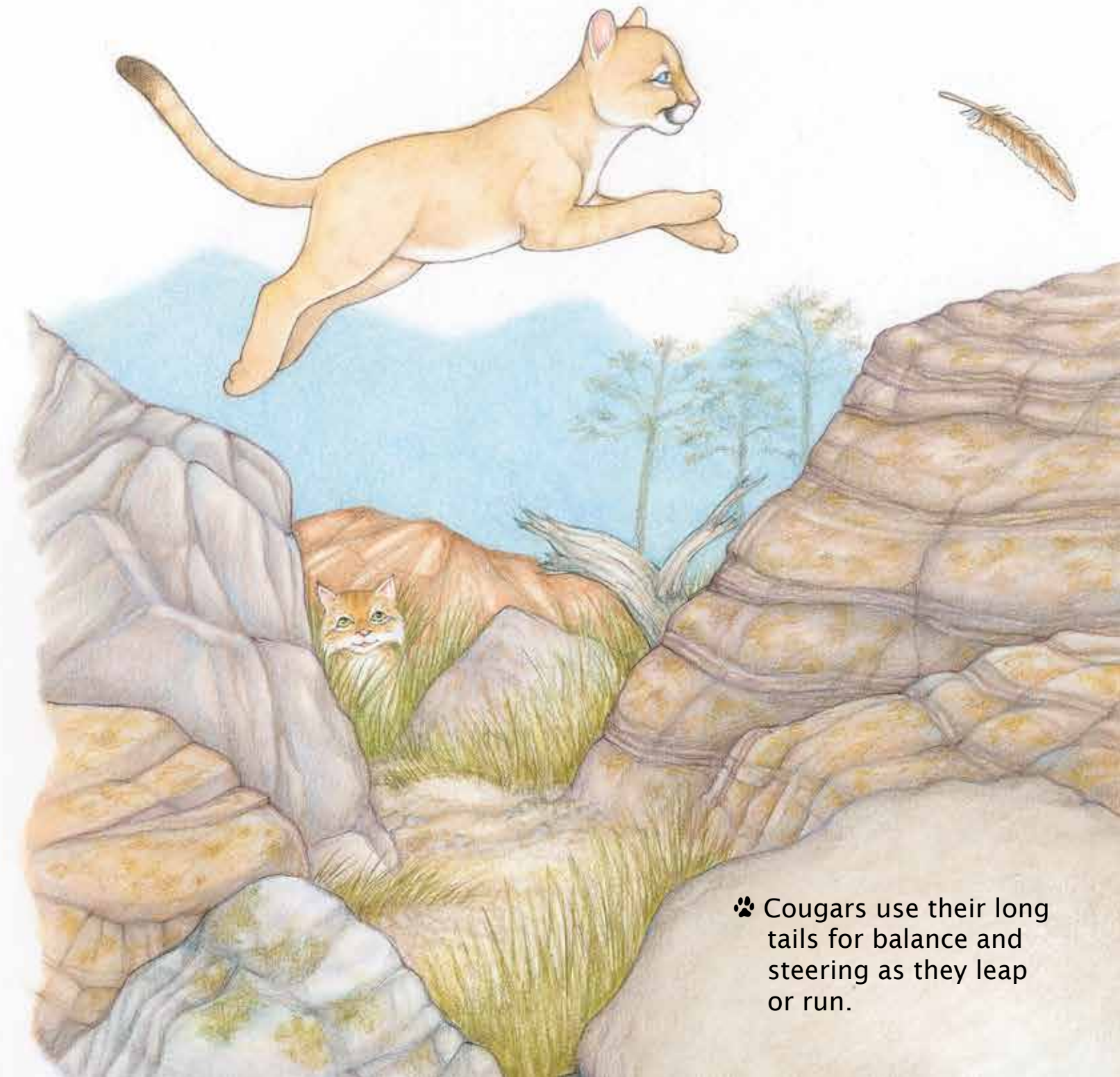


🐾 Where is papa cougar? Off by himself. Male cats do not help raise their young.

Colo raced off, jumping from rock to rock as gusts of air pushed the feather this way and that.



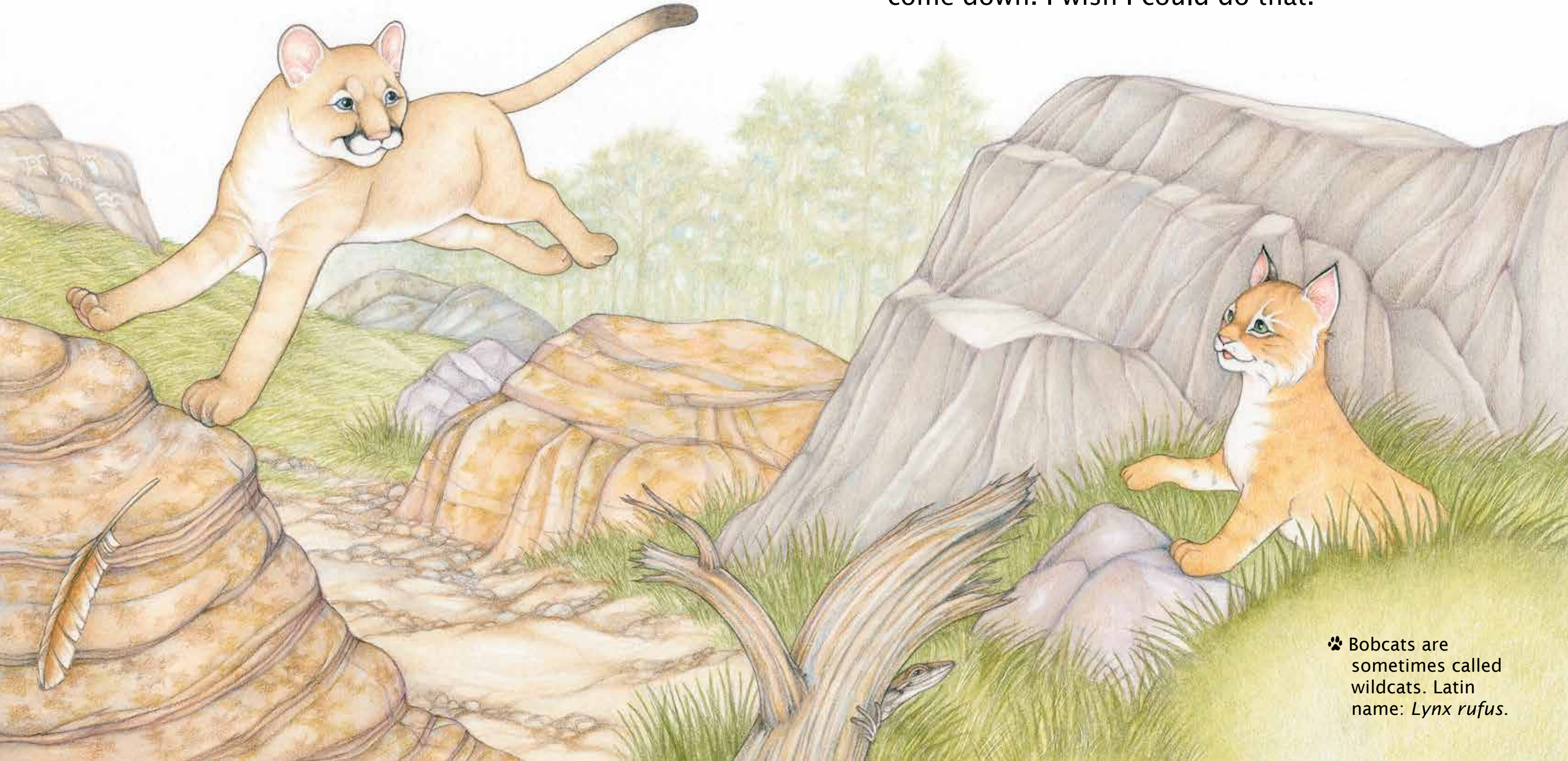
With each jump, Colo's long tail helped her balance as she almost flew through the air.



🐾 Cougars use their long tails for balance and steering as they leap or run.

As Colo made one more jump, she heard a voice from the grass: “I love how you jump!”  
“Who’s that?” asked Colo.

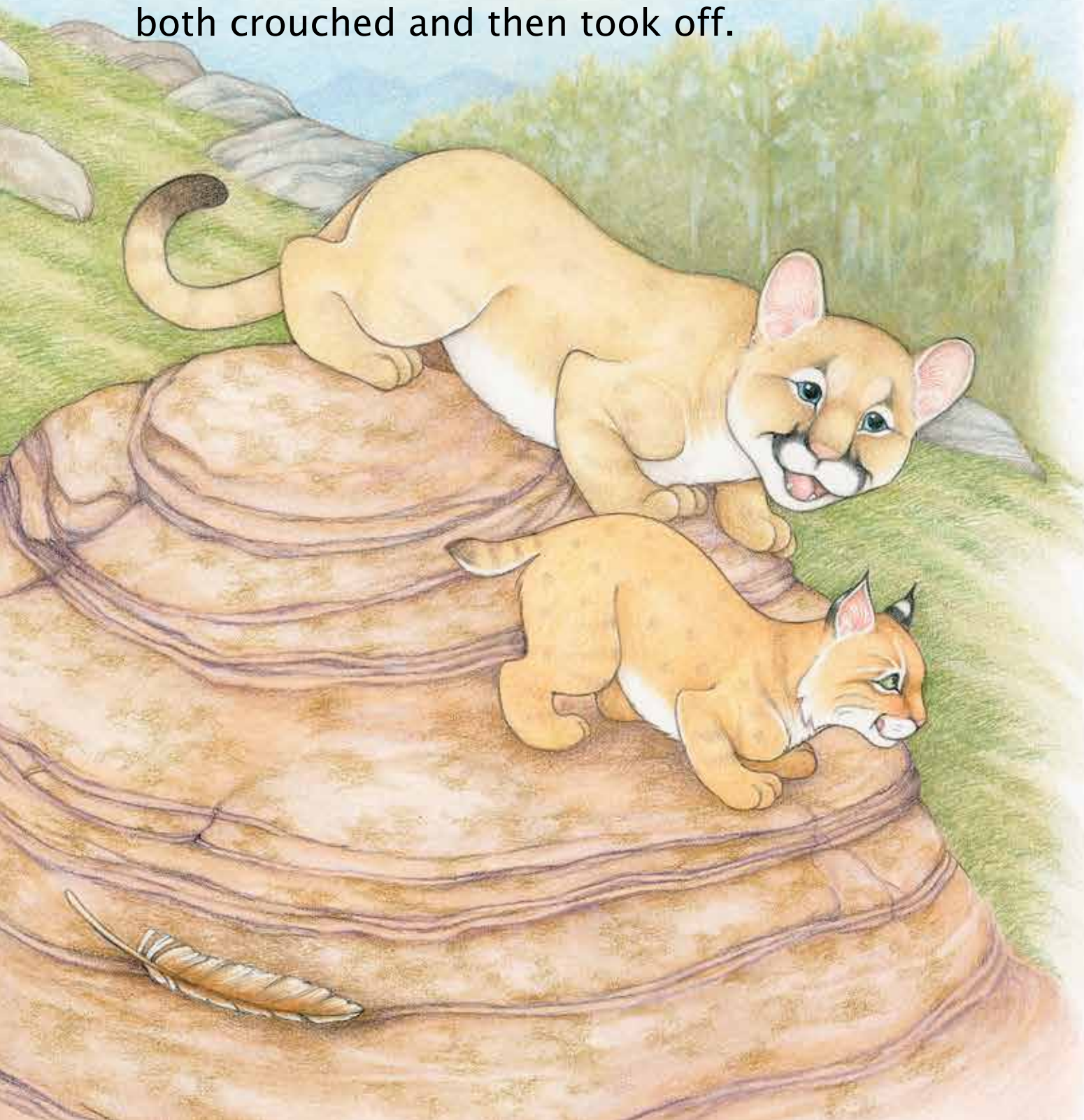
“Just me,” said the voice. It came from Ruff, a bobcat cub. “You can jump so far, and you don’t even get twisted up in the air before you come down. I wish I could do that.”



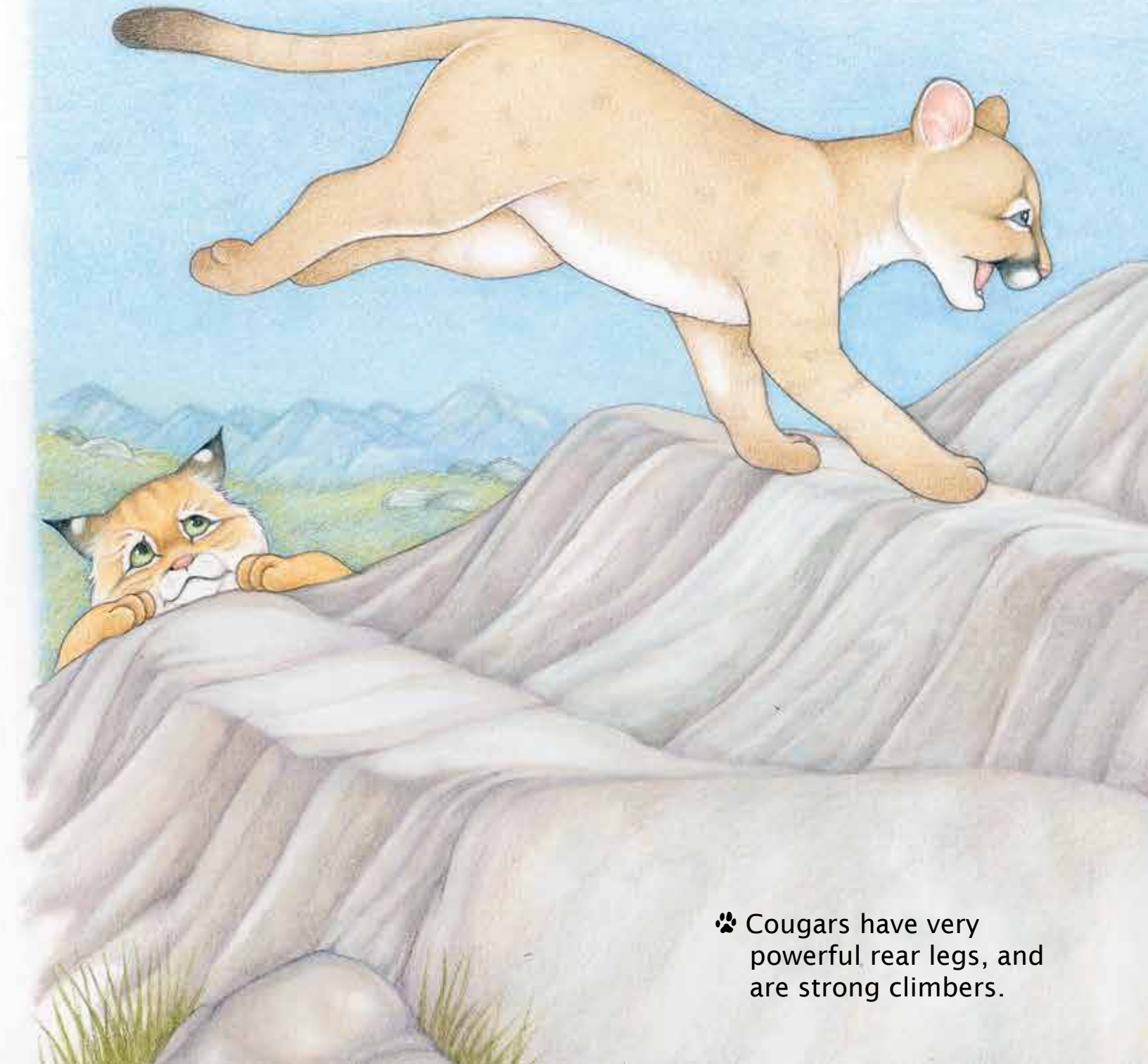
🐾 Bobcats are sometimes called wildcats. Latin name: *Lynx rufus*.

“It’s not so hard, said Colo. “I’ll do it again and you can jump with me.”

Ruff climbed up on the boulder with Colo. They both crouched and then took off.



Colo made it easily to the next boulder, but Ruff landed between the two rocks, barely staying on his feet.



🐾 Cougars have very powerful rear legs, and are strong climbers.

# For Creative Minds

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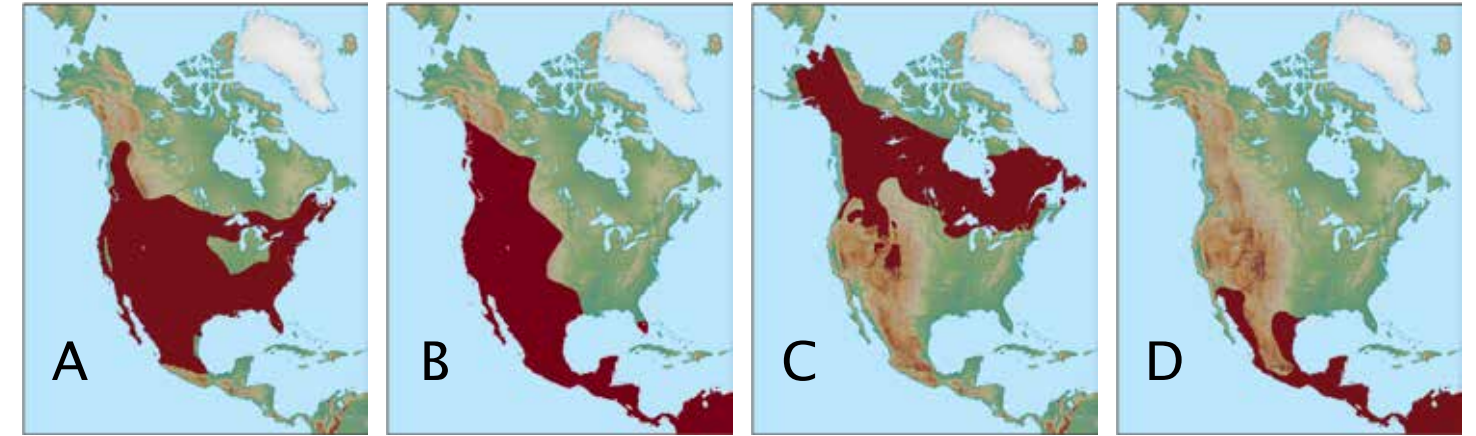
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## Cat Comparisons

	cougar	bobcat	house cat
Scientific name	<i>Puma concolor</i>	<i>Lynx rufus</i>	<i>Felis catus</i>
body length (not including tail)	3-6 feet .9-1.8 meters	26-41 inches 66-104 cm	18 inches 46 cm
tail length	25-37 inches 64-94 cm	4-7 inches 10-18 cm	12 inches 30 cm
weight	120-200 lbs 54-91 kg	11-30 lbs 5-14 kg	8-16 lbs 4-7 kg
distance they can jump	20-40 feet 6-12 meters	10 feet 3 meters	8 feet 2.4 meters
lifespan	8-13 years	10-12 years	12-18 years
most active	at dusk and dawn (crepuscular)	at dusk and dawn (crepuscular)	at dusk and dawn (crepuscular)
Is it dangerous to pet?	Yes, you should not approach or try to pet wild animals. They may be scared and try to defend themselves from you.		Depends on the cat! Some like to be petted, some don't.

## Cat Maps

There are four types of wildcats in North America. Match each cat map to the description of the cat's habitat and range.



**Bobcats** live across most of the United States, except for a portion of the Midwest near the Great Lakes. They live in many different types of habitats, like forests, swamps, deserts, and suburban areas near people.

**Ocelots** live in warm, tropical habitats where there is dense vegetation. Tropical rainforests, grasslands, and marshes are all home to ocelots.

**Cougars** are mostly found in the western part of North America, although there is one type of cougar found in Florida. Like bobcats, cougars live in many habitats, including swamps, forests, grasslands, and cities. Cougars can also be called mountain lions, pumas, panthers, or catamounts.

**Lynxes** live in boreal forests in the northern part of North America. Boreal forests are snowy forests of coniferous trees, like pine and spruce.



Are there any regions where cougars and bobcats might meet in the wild? Where?

Which lives mostly in Mexico and Central/South America?

Answers: A-bobcat. B-cougar. C-lynx. D-ocelot.

## Tail Adaptations

Adaptations help animals succeed in their habitat. An animal's tail is a type of **physical adaptation**. Different animals can have tails that look very different, but serve a similar purpose.

Two of the animals in this book have tails that help them turn. Gophers spin around inside their burrows. Bobcats change directions as they dart through rocks and grass.

Two of the animals in this book have tails that help them balance. Cougars use their long tails to balance as they leap. Hawks use their winged tails to balance and steer as they soar through the air.

Two of the animals in this book have tails that help them defend themselves. Skunks raise their tails to spray predators. Lizards' tails come off when a predator grabs them, allowing the lizard to escape.

Can you think of any other animals that use their tails to turn, balance, or defend themselves? Can you think of other uses for tails?



turn

balance

defense

An animal's physical adaptations can tell you something about the animal and the habitat it lives in. Match the adaptations below with how it helps the animal.

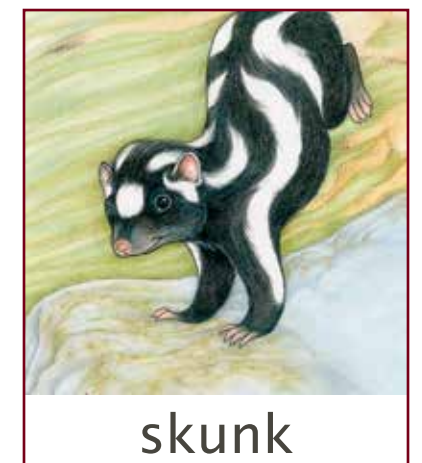
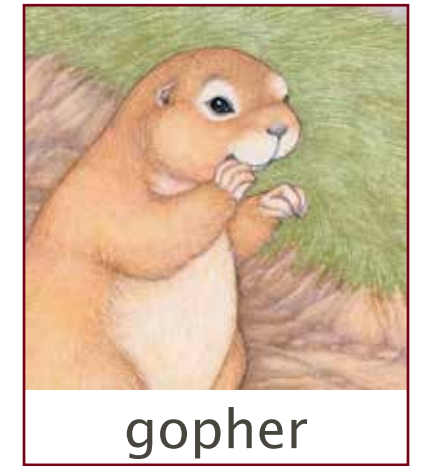
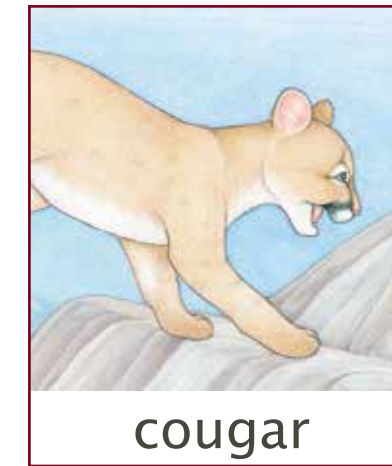
*Can you think of any animals that have these adaptations?*

- |                     |                                |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. thick fur        | A. sense things near its face  |
| 2. webbed toes      | B. stay warm in cold habitats  |
| 3. sharp teeth      | C. protect itself from attack  |
| 4. hard outer shell | D. paddle through wet habitats |
| 5. whiskers         | E. tear through meat           |



Answers: 1B, 2D, 3E, 4C, 5A

## Match the Tail



Answers: A-skunk, B-hawk, C-bobcat, D-gopher, E-cougar, F-lizard



For Patti Blasquez, whose love of wildlife helped open my eyes to every creature, large and small— DL  
Thanks to Tiffany Dollins and Hardy Kern, Animal Program Specialists at the Columbus Zoo for ensuring the accuracy of the information in this book.

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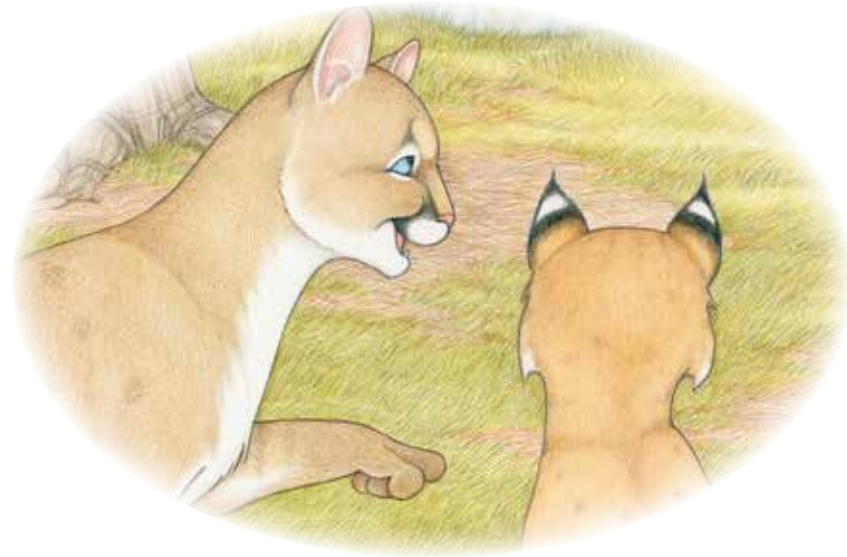
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