



# TWO TIGER TALES

STORIES FROM CHINA

RETOLD BY BARBARA BEVERIDGE

*Ready  
to Read*

Published 2015 by the Ministry of Education,  
PO Box 1666, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.  
[www.education.govt.nz](http://www.education.govt.nz)

First published 1998 for the Ministry of Education  
by Learning Media Limited, Wellington, New Zealand.

Text copyright © Barbara Beveridge 1998  
Illustrations *The Clumsy Tiger* copyright © Caroline Campbell 1998  
Illustrations *The Competition* copyright © Ali Teo 1998

Series Editor: Bill Gaynor  
Designer: Penelope Newman

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

Publishing services: Lift Education E Tū

ISBN 978 0 478 16250 9 (print)  
ISBN 978 1 77690 416 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 16250.

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)

# TWO TIGER TALES

STORIES FROM CHINA  
RETOLD BY BARBARA BEVERIDGE



**2** The Clumsy Tiger  
illustrated by Caroline Campbell

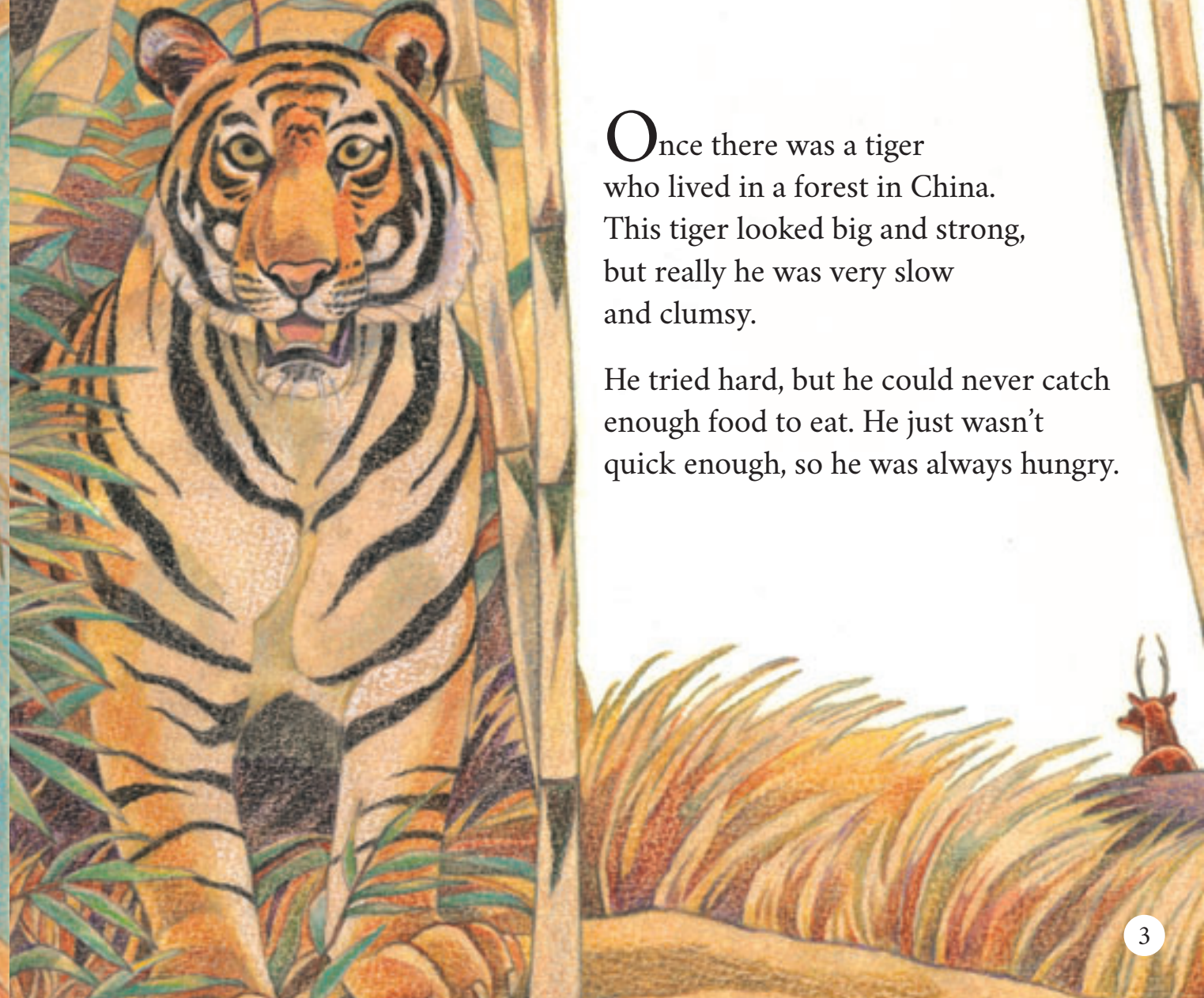
**10** The Competition  
illustrated by Ali Teo



An illustration of a tiger's front paws, showing the orange fur with black stripes and the claws. The paws are positioned on the right side of the page, partially overlapping the title area.

# THE CLUMSY TIGER

a folk tale from China  
retold by Barbara Beveridge  
illustrated by Caroline Campbell



Once there was a tiger who lived in a forest in China. This tiger looked big and strong, but really he was very slow and clumsy.

He tried hard, but he could never catch enough food to eat. He just wasn't quick enough, so he was always hungry.



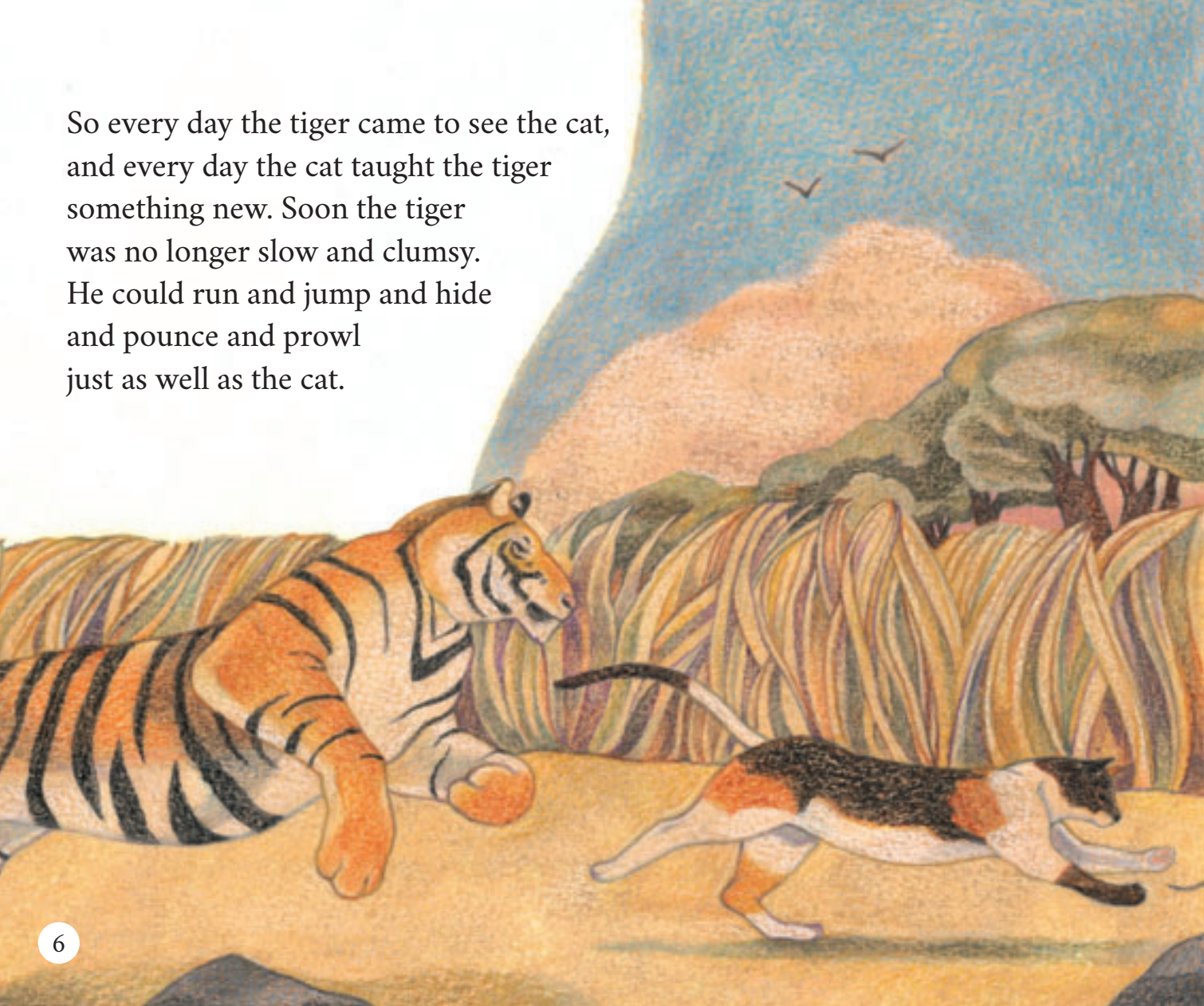
One day, the tiger watched a cat running through the forest. The tiger called to the cat, "You're so quick and clever. You can run and you can hide. You can jump from rock to rock. You can pounce and prowl. Could you teach me to be quick and clever like you?"

"All right," said the cat. "I'll teach you all I know. Meet me here tomorrow, and we'll begin your lessons."





So every day the tiger came to see the cat,  
and every day the cat taught the tiger  
something new. Soon the tiger  
was no longer slow and clumsy.  
He could run and jump and hide  
and pounce and prowl  
just as well as the cat.



Then, one day, the cat saw  
the tiger watching him with  
a hungry look.

“That’s it!” said the cat.

“I’ve taught you all I know.  
The lessons are over.”

“Did you really teach me all you know?”  
said the tiger, getting ready to pounce  
on the cat.





But he wasn't quick enough. The cat had already climbed to the top of a very tall tree. He called down to the tiger, "There was one more thing I was going to teach you, but it's just as well I didn't!"

So now you know why tigers *still* can't climb trees.







# THE COMPETITION

a story from China  
retold by Barbara Beveridge  
illustrated by Ali Teo



One morning a tiger went to look for water. He found a pool and started to drink. Suddenly there was a very loud noise. It was a small yellow frog, and he was very angry. "Who said you could drink from my pool?" said the frog.



“I did,” said the tiger. “Who’s going to stop me?”

“I am,” said the frog. “I can jump higher than you, I can jump farther than you, and ...  
... and every day I eat a tiger for dinner.”

“Is that so?” said the tiger. “We’ll see about that. We’ll have a competition. Right?”

“Right!” said the frog. “We’ll soon see who can jump the highest.”



“We’ll both count to three and then jump,” said the tiger.

But just as they got to three, the frog jumped onto the tiger’s tail and held on. The tiger jumped as high as he could, but the frog jumped higher from the tiger’s tail.

“I’ve won! I’ve won the competition!” he shouted.





“We haven’t finished,” said the tiger.

“Now we’ll see who can jump the farthest.  
Get ready to count to three.”

But again, the frog jumped onto the tiger’s tail  
and held on. The tiger jumped as far as he could,  
but then the frog jumped from the tiger’s tail.

“I’ve won! I’ve won again!”  
the frog shouted.





The tiger was amazed.  
This tiny frog *could* jump  
higher and farther than he could.  
He didn't wait to see if the frog  
could really eat him for dinner as well.  
He ran away into the forest.

And that's why frogs in China  
make such a noise. They're still  
busy scaring away tigers!







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.



Two Tiger Tales

[bit.ly/2T0l8q9](https://bit.ly/2T0l8q9)