In a small village, there lived a wise old man who had a cat named Whiskers. The old man was known for his wisdom and kindness, and Whiskers was his most beloved companion. One day, the old man had to leave the village to visit a distant friend. Before departing, he worried about his house and his wife, who was known for her inquisitive nature. He decided to leave Whiskers at home, knowing that the cat had a unique ability to observe and report everything that happened around him.

The old man instructed his wife, "Take good care of Whiskers while I'm away. He is not just a pet, but a guardian of our home." The wife nodded, but her curiosity got the better of her. She wondered what secrets Whiskers might know and how she could trick him into revealing them.

When the old man returned, he asked Whiskers, "What happened while I was away?" Whiskers replied, "Your wife was very kind, but she asked me many questions about our neighbors and their secrets." The old man was surprised and a little disappointed, but he trusted his wife and decided to let it go.

However, the wife, feeling embarrassed and frustrated, decided to take revenge on Whiskers. She devised a plan to make him look foolish. The next time the old man left, she gathered a group of children and told them to play a trick on Whiskers. One child was to wave a piece of string in front of him, another to make loud noises with a drum, and a third to shine a flashlight in his eyes. The children did as instructed, and Whiskers was thoroughly confused and frightened.

When the old man returned, he asked Whiskers, "What happened while I was away?" Whiskers, still shaken, replied, "Master, there were strange lights, loud noises, and something kept waving in front of me. I couldn't understand what was happening." The old man, thinking that Whiskers was lying, scolded him and sent him outside.

Later that night, the old man realized that Whiskers had been telling the truth. He felt remorse for doubting his loyal companion and called him back inside. From that day on, the old man trusted Whiskers even more, and the wife learned a valuable lesson about curiosity and trust.