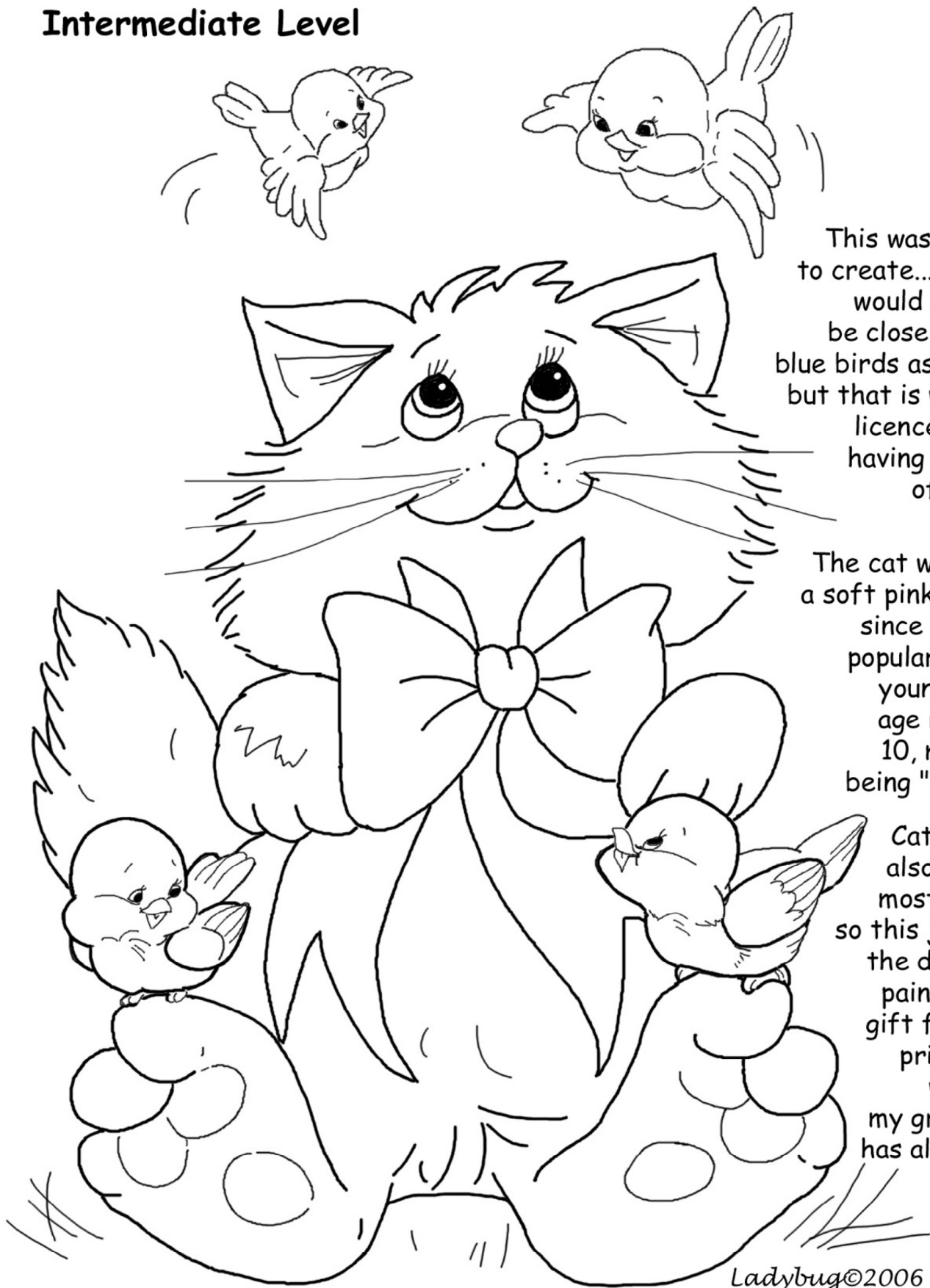




Ladybug

Bird Watcher

Intermediate Level



This was a fun design to create...as most cats would certainly not be close friends with blue birds as shown here, but that is what artistic licence is all about, having the freedom of both humor and fantasy.

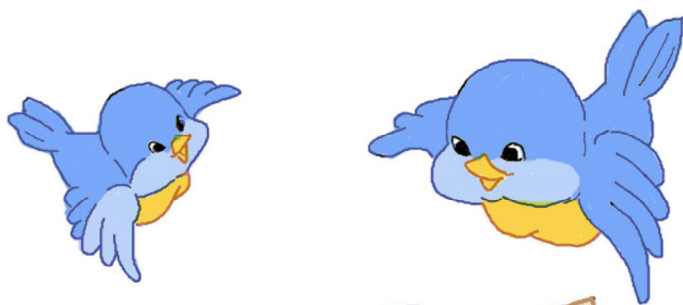
The cat was placed on a soft pink background, since this is a very popular color among young girls in the age range of 5 to 10, most of them being "Barbie" fans.

Cats and kittens also are loved by most young girls,, so this just might be the design you for painting up a nice gift for that little princess in your world. I know my granddaughter has already spoken for this one.

2-Basic colors:

The colors given below were used to block the colors in coloring book fashion. I did not do them all at one time, but to save on cost of printing out the pages, I have kept them all on this one page. I only blocked in the base color of the cat, at the beginning and then added the other sections as I came forward in the painting. Such as I finished the cat before doing the bow and the birds.

The illustrated steps show them done all at one time, but if you have read this page you will know better and find it much easier following my words here.



The reason for the taffy color on the cat, is it much easier to add the darker shadows and highlights on it rather than to layer so many colors on it.

Also keep in mind that a light pink background was used before the design was placed on it to paint.



-  white
-  rust
-  light pink
-  taffy
-  light gold
-  aqua
-  light blue
-  pale blue
-  black

3-First stage of contour shape:

I am only showing the cat in this page since there is so much to do on it and I think this is a better way to show it before the rest is done.

This is one time I would highly recommend using a blending medium to help float the colors into place. Start with the lighter color, add as many layers as you need and then a light layer of the dark one toward the outside edges. Remember this is not shadow, merely giving the cat shape.



There are many different brands out there of blending mediums, use which ever one you like. Some people say you should stick with one that is from the same brand of paint you are using, most times this is true, but to be honest, I use a glazing medium that I have purchased at the paint store that has been poured into a smaller containers to use for this....and I have found it to work with almost every acrylic paint I have tried so far.

I find the gallon works best for me, because it also gives me large amounts I need for backgrounds or for doing furniture pieces.

● dark taffy

● milk chocolate

Be sure to touch up any areas you might have spilled over into, and allow it and the cat to totally dry before going on to the next page.

4-Contour shape #2

This second page finishes up the final contour shapes needed for the subjects. I did use the lighter blue to highlight the birds a wee bit (like you, I can get carried away in painting regardless if it's with paint or in the computer.)

The colors were all floated into place as shown. When you are done at this stage your subjects should have that feeling of coming up off the background surface. This is also an ideal time to float a little bit of the magenta around the outside of the cat to the left side or you can wait and do it in the next step.



Won't this look cute painted in a little girls room, or even in a child's bathroom. I can picture it not only as a towel holder, but even on a shower curtain....or.... yes, you guessed it, on the toilet seat cover.

Okay, so you didn't like that suggestion, well how about painted on a T-shirt to give as a gift, or even on the side of a birdhouse made into a bank for in her room.

My granddaughter wants it painted on a jewelry box, and it would also be great for a treasure box as well.



5-Shadows & Highlights:

Don't normally put both the highlights and shadows on the same page, but with this design it was almost impossible to do otherwise.

I started out stroking in the off white fur first, then floated or glazed over it with the dark rich brown for shadows. Once dried, I added strokes of the white, and again glazed over in the shadow areas so that I did not lose the contour shape of the cat.

When the cat was finished I went back and completed the bow on it. Added in the black for eyes and eyelashes. Tiny white solid dots for the shine in them all.



What is not seen here is the whiskers, which you will see on the final design, so be sure to add them in.

I wanted to show the shading of the magenta behind the cat, without the background color so you could get a better idea of how much of it was done. I used both shades of magenta to create it.

 off white

 white

 magenta

 raspberry

 rich brown

 dark teal

