

Story Study Facilitator Resource Pack: Come back, cat!

Teachers Guide: Read the following paragraphs yourself prior to facilitating the discussion questions with children. This will enable you to ask the questions confidently and use them as tools to help children figure out what is going on in the story as well as what lessons can be learnt from it. By asking questions and having children come up with answers, their learning experience will be more fun and more effective than if you were to simply give them all of the answers. If they are struggling to find strong answers, use the following paragraphs to help steer children in a more focused direction.

Story Summary

A delightful tale about an independent cat! Although, this cat doesn't seem very interested in listening to instructions...she seems much more interested in causing mischief and going on adventures. So why is she suddenly back in her bed sleeping happily? And where is that chicken?!

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Reading the Story

Before reading the book, look at the cover and ask children what they think the story might be about. Here are some helpful tips to guide you before, during, and after reading the story:

- Give them enough time to state what they think and feel.
- Spend time with each page to ensure that children understand what is going on.
- Ask questions about what is going on in each picture.
- Once you have finished reading, ask children what they liked about the story.
- Ask some questions from the list below (choose questions that seem relevant for your child/group of children).
- Make sure that **everybody** gets a chance to ask and answer questions. Don't let the older, more confident, and/or louder children take over everything.

Discussion Questions and Topics

Comprehension Questions to ask children – These questions are designed to see how well children understood the story:

- What colour is the cat? Where have you seen it before?
- What do cats eat? Are they herbivores, carnivores or omnivores?



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- What does the cat use its whiskers for?
- What is the cat's behaviour on the first page when you look at his eyes?
- How did the cat interact with the other animals that it meets on its way?
- How many and which animals did the cat meet?
- What happened when the cat saw the chicken?
- How did the cat feel after meeting the chicken?
- Where did the cat spend most of its time?
- Where is the cat lying down?

Discussion Questions to ask children – These questions are designed to help children think critically about the story and formulate their own individual ideas and opinions:

- Was this a naughty cat or a curious cat? Why do you think so?
- Was the cat the chicken's friend? Why or why not?
- By the end of the story, you see the cat with the big tummy and feathers floating around it. What do you think has happened to the chicken? Why do you think so?
- How does the cat feel at the end of the story?

Activity 1: Make Your Own 3D Cat.

➤ **Resources:**

- Paintbrush
- Paint (orange to make it look like the one in the book or any other colour, if you don't have orange)
- Piece of paper
- Glue
- Toilet Paper Roll
- A Pair of scissors
- Tub with water
- Pencil

Activity: In this activity, children will make their own a toilet paper roll cat which will look the same as the one in the book or to create their own version if you don't have the same colour.

1. Each child will need a toilet paper roll, a paintbrush, paint, coloured pencils or crayons, a piece of paper, glue and a pair of scissors.
2. Paint your toilet roll with orange or any other colour. Leave it to dry.
3. Bend one side of the top of your toilet paper roll down, then bend the opposite side of the top down to make the cat's ears.
4. Cut along the bottom of the other end of the toilet paper roll and bend it up to create the tail of the cat.
5. On a piece of paper, draw two small circles and put black dots in the middle to make the cat's eyes.
6. Carefully cut out the eyes and paste them onto the toilet paper roll (once your paint has dried).
7. Use your coloured pencils or crayons to draw your cat's stripes and nose.

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Activity 2: Build a Food Chain

➤ **Resources:**

- Copy of "build a food chain"
- Crayons/pencil crayons
- Pencil/pen
- A pair of scissor

Activity: Discuss what the food chain is with your child/children, as well as its advantages and disadvantages. Tell children that we all exist because of each other. This means we all need to show respect and UBUNTU to every living creature. Show children the food chain where they will see this and explain how it happens in real life.

Encourage them to recall the information you have shared and go through it with them step by step.

1. Colour in the pictures of the "build a food chain" print out.
2. Cut and paste the pictures where they belong in the food chain sequence.
3. Complete and present your work.

Activity 3: Crunched Crayon Resist

➤ **Resources:**

- Piece of paper
- Wax crayons
- Water paint
- Paintbrush
- Pencil
- Eraser

Activity: In this fn activity children can explore with different art mediums. Resist, means that the crayon drawing will repel the water paint away from it, therfor the paint will not bond to this part of the picutre. By folding and crunching the artwork, the paint will settle in the cracks you have created.

1. Draw your cat and colour it in with wax crayons.
2. Using your wax crayons, colour in the background of your cat in different colours.
3. Crunch the paper, unfold and crunch it again.
4. Unfold your crunched paper, paint all over it with a different colour of water paint.
5. Let it dry and present your work.

Activity 4: Cat Blowing Art Painting

➤ **Resources:**

- Copy of a cat
- Food colouring
- Water (250ml)

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- Straw
- Empty small tub/cup/glass

Activity: Create abstract art by blowing liquid paint (ink) on your paper with a straw. You can use the blown paint to create certain special effects, such as hair for your cat.

1. On a piece of paper, draw an outline of the cat or use the template provided.
2. Mix drops of food colouring with water to make ink in the small cup.
3. Use the straw to place a drop of your ink on the drawing and blow it using your straw or mouth.
4. Let your art dry and present your art.

Activity 5: Make a Cat from Different Shapes

➤ **Resources:**

- Crayons
- A pair of scissors
- Three pieces of paper
- Glue
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Marker

Activity: Discuss with children what shapes make up a cat -- for example, triangles for ears.

1. On a piece of paper, draw different shapes (square, two triangles, two rectangles, two circles and an 'S' for the tail) and colour them in different colours.
2. Cut out the different shapes and start to paste them together to make the cat.
3. Complete and present your cat.

Make a Cat Collage

➤ **Resources:**

- Newspapers/magazines
- Glue
- Piece of paper
- Pencil

Activity: Ask children how they would like their invented cats to look if they were to create them using newspapers or magazines. What colours would they have and how would they adapt for survival? Once they have brainstormed these ideas, go through the steps on how they can be creative to make their own version of a cat using different newspapers/magazine-coloured pictures. Support and help them to present what they have done.

1. Draw a cat outline on a piece of paper.
2. Choose picture's/page's from the magazine/newspaper and rip them into small pieces.
3. Paste those small pieces of magazine/newspaper on your cat outline. Use the different colours you find in your magazine or newspapers to create your cat.

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Thanda is a non-profit organisation based in rural Mtwalume, KwaZulu Natal South Africa. Our curriculum is made up of activities that we have developed over 12 years. The ideas and inspiration for our activities come from is a wonderful combination of educators, books, websites, YouTubers, and other places and people on the internet. We are very grateful for all of them. Where we use ideas or activities directly from a source, we always endeavour to give credit to the creator. We do not endeavour to profit from these story studies, we only wish to add value to the lives of people we may have the opportunity of crossing paths with.

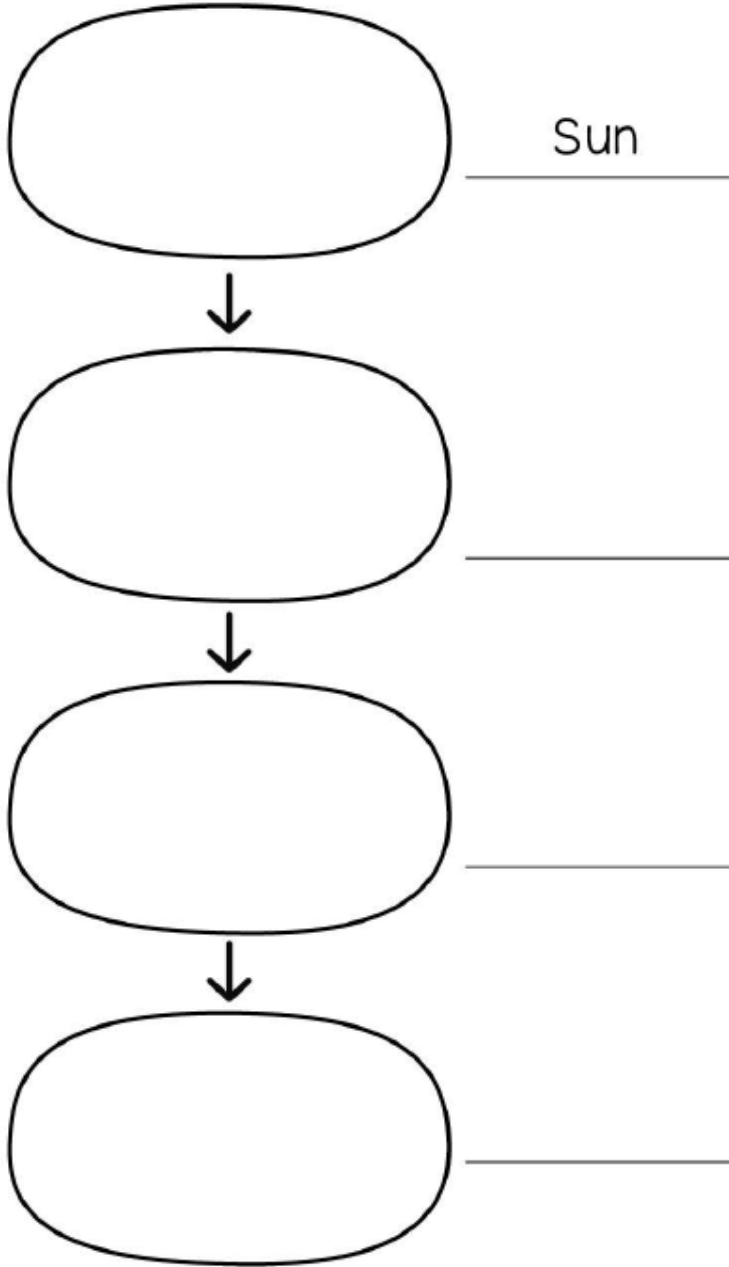
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Name _____ Date _____

Build a Food Chain

Cut out the pictures on the right.
Glue them to make a food chain.



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