

GUIDED READING PLANS

SIMON P. CATSBY

Questions can easily be adapted to meet the CCSS of first-third grades.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. From which point of view is this story told? (RL.2.1)
2. What is the setting (when, where)? (RL.2.1)
3. How do you think the kitty feels when he sees the school? (RL.2.3)
4. Why do you think the kitty is looking for a home? (RL.2.3)
5. Explain why the teacher does not want to keep the kitty as her own when she first sees him. (RL.2.3)
6. The kitty says his plan is working. What do you think is the kitty's plan? (RL.2.3)
7. What are the steps the children take to attempt to find the kitty's owner? (RL.2.1)
8. Why is some of the text in speech bubbles? (RL.2.7)
9. How is the kitty's problem solved at the end of the story? (RL.2.5)
10. What message does the story express through the actions of the students in Ms. Catsby's class? (RL.2.2)

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE & LITERARY DEVICES

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Alliteration

- When a series of words begins with the same sound
- Examples from the story:
 - p. 1 Curious kitty
 - p. 1 Daily dose
 - p. 1 Feline freedom
 - p. 3 Plan pounced
 - p. 7 Twitching tail

Pun

- A play on words for a humorous effect
- Examples from the story:
 - p. 2 furever home
 - p. 5 pawful mistake
 - p. 11 kitten around
 - p. 16 purrfectly content
 - p. 17 fur real

Simile

- A comparison of two unlike objects using the words "like" or "as"
- Examples from the story:
 - p. 7 "as still as a statue"

7 HABITS OF HAPPY KIDS Sean Covey.

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Habit 4

Think Win-Win: Everyone can win

From *The Leader In Me* website:

"I balance courage for getting what I want with consideration for what others want. I make deposits in others' Emotional Bank Accounts (EBA). When conflicts arise, I look for third alternatives."

From the book:

The students in Ms. Catsby's class problem solve together to find a solution. They consider other people's feelings (trying to find out if someone lost the kitty), depositing kindness into others' EBA. They try to think of ways to help everyone to be happy (Ms. Catsby, the kitty, the neighbors).

- Discuss: You are spending the night at a friend's house. You want to watch a movie, but your friend wants to play a game. Come up with a plan to make everyone happy.
- Brainstorm: How can you be a problem solver at school?

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Habit 6

Synergize: Together is better!

From *The Leader In Me*:

"I value other people's strengths and learn from them. I get along well with others, even people who are different than me. I work well in groups. I seek out other people's ideas to solve problems because I know that by teaming with others we can create better solutions than anyone of us can alone. I am humble."

From the book:

The students in Ms. Catsby's class work together as a team when they brainstorm ideas of what to do with the kitty.

- Activity: (Divide students into groups of 3-4) How many words can you make using the letters in "Simon P. Catsby"?
- Discuss: Why is it better to synergize rather than working alone?

LOST & FOUND

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CREATE A POSTER

Pretend you found a cat or dog in your neighborhood. You would like to find the owner. Create a poster that you could hang around your neighborhood advertising the animal you found. Draw a picture of what the animal looks like. In your written description, include important details that would alert the owner to their lost pet.

- Breed of the animal, if known
- Size
- Color of fur
- Color of eyes
- Whether or not animal was wearing a collar
- Distinctive features (white spot on chest, floppy ears, etc.)
- Date you found the animal
- Location the animal was found
- Contact information so the owner can reach you

CURIOUS CAT BEHAVIORS

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HOW DO CATS BEHAVE?

Animals behave in different ways depending on their species. For example, cats are known to meow when they want food and take lots of naps. What are some other cat behaviors you know? Can you find all the cat behaviors in *Simon P. Catsby*?

- The kitty curiously explores the school.
- His ears are described as keen because cats have a good sense of hearing.
- He is clever when he plans to get the teacher to take him in by being a cute, adorable kitty.
- He is scared and hides his face when she takes him into the loud school.
- He likes the quiet of the classroom.
- His tail twitches, showing he is a bit uneasy.
- He curls up in the teacher's lap and purrs.
- He rubs his head against the teacher's arm and twirls in circles.
- He snuggles on the couch.
- He eats cat food.
- He naps in the sunshine.
- He lays on a blanket with the family.
- He pokes his head out of the teacher's school bag, showing his curiosity.