

Oi Cat!

Themes

Part of a bestselling series, this rhyming story is a fantastic way to get kids reading and rhyming in a way that supports their phonics learning. It's a hilarious take on the classic 'Fat Cat Sat on the Mat' theme, which encourages children to rhyme words and match objects while exploring ideas of fairness and suitability.

Did You Know?

Oi Cat! was the Independent Booksellers Children's Book of the Season, while *Oi Goat!* was a World Book Day book for 2018.

Oi Dog! won the 2017 Scholastic Lollies Award in the Picture Book category.

Kes Gray is the author of the award-winning *Daisy* books, including the best-loved Red House Award winner, *Eat Your Peas*.

Jim Field won the Roald Dahl Funny Prize with his pictures for *Cats Ahoy!*

Summary:

Why does Cat look so grumpy? Maybe he's fed up of people shouting 'oi'. (After all, it's rather rude.) But actually, the problem is worse than that. The problem is Frog's stupid rules. According to Frog: cats sit on gnats, dogs sit on logs, raccoons sit on macaroons, armadillos sit on pillows and chicks sit on bricks. But wait! That's fine if you're an armadillo, but Cat doesn't like sitting on gnats. They keep biting his bottom! Why can't cats sit on bats, or hats, or (best of all) nice soft mats, like they're supposed to? Will Frog and Dog let him change the rules?

Ideas for using this book in your classroom:

Read the story out loud to your pupils without revealing all of the pictures. At each 'xxx sit on' phrase, ask the children to guess the rhyming words.

Ask the children to work in small groups to make up their own 'sit on' rhymes. Where might cows sit? Or whales? Or snails? Where might aardvarks sit? (You could prompt the children by using flashcards of animal names.)

Are there any animals that the children can't find a rhyming word for? Explain that non-rhyming words are called refractory rhymes, and they include orange, purple, silver, poem and month. Spend a few minutes letting the children see if they can find any words to rhyme with these. Can they think of any more words that are difficult to rhyme?

Explain that the plot of the story is driven by the rhymes. Cat doesn't sit on a gnat because it makes any sense, but because he has to sit on something that rhymes

with his name. Ask the children to look again at the objects they have sat each animal on. Will the animals be happy where they are sat? What problems might arise?

What do the children think about Frog's rules? Is it fair to ask cats to sit on gnats, or to make chicks sit on bricks? Is Frog being a bully? If they were Frog, what rules would they choose instead?

Ask each child to draw a picture of one of the animal/object combinations that their group has thought of, or to create a new one. Then get the children to put their pictures together to create a new story. Are there any funny or unusual combinations that they can use to construct a plot? What happens if they change 'sit on' to another verb like 'eat' or 'chase'?

Finally, ask them to act out their new rhymes in small groups.