LET'S GIVE KITTY A BATH

by Steven Lindblom and True Kelly
Themes: Animals, Feelings, Humor
Grade Level: K–3 (ages 4-9)
Running Time: 12 minutes

SUMMARY
When they see their neighbor's dog getting a bath, a young brother and sister decide to bathe their cat. They fill their wading pool, but the cat does not go along with their program. In fact, the cat refuses to be captured at all. The children construct ever more elaborate and more amusing traps, getting dirtier and dirtier with each attempt at capture. When the children finally do grab the cat, the dog next door gives chase. The children end up in the pool, while the cat calmly sits on the porch washing itself.

OBJECTIVES
• Children will watch and listen to a fictional story about a pet cat.
• Children will follow a narrative made up of a sequence of events.
• Children will compare the behavior of dogs, cats and people.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES
With a show of hands, identify the children who have cats at home. Ask the cat owners whether cats like getting wet. Then introduce the title of the story and ask children to predict what might happen if someone tried to bathe a cat. Encourage them to watch the video to see if their predictions were correct. Explain that the story is told without words, so that they should pay special attention to every detail they see.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES
Ask children to identify the parts of the story they liked the best. Make a chalkboard list of the parts in the order that children mention them. Then have children number the events in the order in which they happened in the story. To help children remember the cause and effect sequences, go back over the video, pausing at each scene to ask why each event is happening. Then discuss why each event turned out differently from what the children expected. Encourage children to speculate on what the cat was thinking or planning as the children plot its capture.

For more fun with storytelling and writing, have children invent different ways the children might have captured the cat. Encourage them to act out or write stories using their ideas. Children can also draw their stories in comic book form. They might also enjoy telling the story from the cat's point of view.

Encourage reading and library use by showing children how to find library books about cats.

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