

CAT & CANARY

Cat & Canary

by Michael Foreman (Dial)

Themes: Friendship, Adventure

Grade Level: PreK-2

Running Time: 5 minutes, iconographic

Summary

What would it be like to fly like a bird? Cat discovers just that when he becomes tangled in the strings of a kite and is blown high above the rooftops of New York City. At first Cat loves that flying feeling as he swirls over the tallest of the tall buildings, swoops over bridges, and soars over highways. But things becomes less enchanting for Cat when storm clouds approach.

The end of the story finds Cat rescued by none other than the tiny little canary. Just in time, too for Cat's master is about to come home from work.

Objectives

- Children will explore the concept of friendship.
- Children will learn about perspective - how things appear either from above or from below, and how the master sees the cat from his point of view.
- Children will learn to exercise their creative thinking skills as they imagine what it would be like to fly.

Before Viewing Activities

Share the book Cat & Canary with children. Then ask:

- Why didn't Cat chase birds? How do you think Cat and Canary felt about one another? How did the man feel about his cat?
- What kinds of things did Cat see as he flew across the sky?
- Why did Cat become afraid at the end of the story?

Talk with children about their special friends. Encourage them to describe their feelings about their friends and the kinds of things they like to do together. Emphasize the ways Cat and Canary showed their feelings for one another in the book.

Talk about the different kinds of buildings, parks, museums, shops etc. people might find in a big city. Talk with children about their favorite things to do in a city. Encourage children who live in small or medium-sized towns to think about the things they might enjoy about a large city.

After Viewing Activities

If possible, visit the top level of a parking garage or go to the top floor of a tall building with children. As children look down, talk about how different things near the ground look from this new perspective.

Have children draw pictures of themselves holding onto a kite and flying across the sky. Ask children to think about and draw the different kinds of things they might see as they look down towards the ground from their place high in the sky.

Provide yellow sheets of construction paper, lengths of

string, and short lengths of crepe paper (for kite ties) that children can use to create kites of their own. When finished, help children create simple poems about flying. Print the poems on kites. Display the kites on a classroom wall or bulletin board.

Talk about the special effects in the movie. How did they make the book come alive?

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Friendship

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THE CATERPILLAR AND THE POLLIWOG by Jack Kent
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MOON by Frank Asch
THE HAPPY LION by Louise Fatio and illustrated by Roger Duvoisin
MIKE MULLIGAN AND HIS STEAM SHOVEL by Virginia Lee Burton

Adventure

THE COW WHO FELL IN THE CANAL by Phyllis Krasilovsky, illustrated by Peter Spier
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