

We're Getting a Cat!

Author: Vivian French

Illustrator: Salvatore Rubbino

Published by Walker Books

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Synopsis:

A non-fiction picture book about a rescue cat, with a charmingly funny story by Vivian French and lively illustrations by Salvatore Rubbino. The story follows a family who have just moved into a mouse-infested flat. Dad is terrified of mice and, after several sleepless nights, decides they should get a cat. They meet Kevin the cat in a rescue home – he's big and strong, and they're sure he'll catch all of the mice. But Kevin has other ideas... Join this lovable tomcat as he settles into his new home, gradually learning how to use a litter tray, when he'll be fed and that it's probably better to use a scratching post than to shred the back of Dad's chair. The caption text provides information on feeding, grooming and caring for your cat – and at the end of the book, there's a handy index and bibliography.

Author Bio:



Vivian French lives in both Bristol and Edinburgh. She is a visiting lecturer at the University of the West of England, and she has been writer-in-residence at libraries, schools and festivals, including the Edinburgh International Book Festival and Wordplay, Swansea. She was also a regular reviewer for The Guardian for five years. Vivian worked in children's theatre for ten years as both an actor and writer, and has had plays performed in venues such as the Young Vic Studio in London and the Wyvern Theatre in Swindon. She is now a children's author and story teller; she has been telling stories for more than twenty years in schools, community centres, theatres - wherever there are people to listen. Her first three stories were published in 1990 and since then she has written more than a hundred books, both fiction and non-fiction

Illustrator Bio:

Salvatore Rubbino is a rising talent in the world of illustration. His first book for children, *A Walk in New York*, was shortlisted for the V&A Illustration Awards, his second, *A Walk in London*, won an SLA Information Book Award, and his third, *Just Ducks!* (written by Nicola Davies), was shortlisted for the Kate Greenaway



Curriculum Links

Foundation Science - Biological Science [ACSSU002](#)

recognising the needs of living things in a range of situations such as pets at home, plants in the garden or plants and animals in bushland

Year 2 English [ACELA1463](#)

Themes:

Pets
Caring for animals
Text types

Pre Reading.

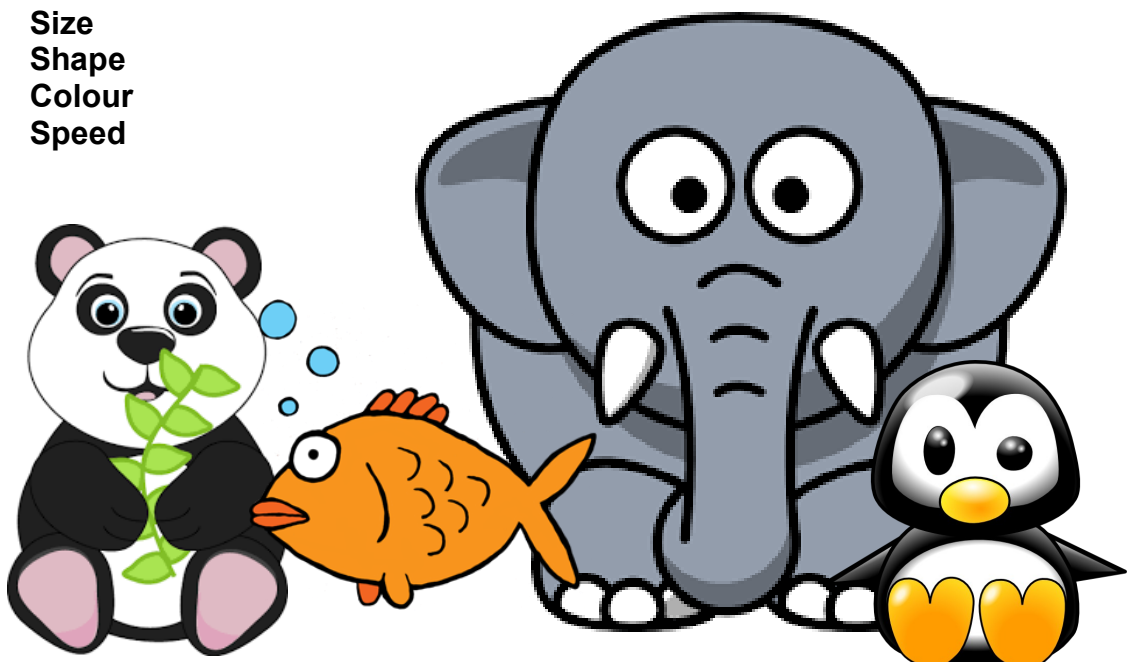
Look at the cover
Read the Title
Identify the author and illustrator .
What do you think this story might be about?

- Look at the front cover and read the blurb on the back. Try to predict some of the events that might happen in the story.
-
- As a class, brainstorm what you know about the animal/subject that the book is about then use this information to create a mind-map. Use sub-headings to help organise the information.
- Write down 5 adjectives you would use to describe the animal/subject.

Divide the class into groups and give each group a selection of animals. Think of adjectives for these animals.

Describe the animals using adjectives for:

Size
Shape
Colour
Speed



Research

In the book the family get a cat. There's a lot of information in the book about how to look after a new cat. Lots of animals can be pets, and they all need to be looked after in different ways.

Think of an animal you would like to get for a pet. Must be an animal you could actually keep as a pet, so no elephants or hippos.

Firstly:

What kind of pet would you get?

What would you call your pet?

Where would you get your pet?

Do some research to find out:

Where will your pet sleep?

What does your pet eat?

What are some of the things you have to do to look after your pet?

See template on next page if using this book with younger readers.

Year 2 English [ACELA1463](#)

Identify the 2 different types of text used in the book.

Read the book aloud reading only one type of text.

Repeat with the other type of text.

How are the versions different?

Why might the author have chosen to write the story this way?

- Do you prefer the descriptive, storytelling sections of the text or the informative, factual sections? In what types of texts would each of these writing styles usually be used? For example, novels, newspaper articles and reference books.
- Is the book an imaginative, informative or persuasive text, or a combination of these texttypes? If you were a librarian, what section of the library would you put the book in?



All About My Pet



This is my pet _____

Its name is _____

My _____ loves to _____

Its favourite food is _____

