



Cat Talk

Patricia MacLachlan , Barry Moser (Illustrations) , Emily MacLachlan Charest

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From cuddler to troublemaker, kitten to tom, cats have a lot to say. Authors Patricia MacLachlan and Emily MacLachlan Charest and illustrator Barry Moser give voice to and celebrate our most opinionated furry friends in this spirited collection of poems filled with rich language, perfect for reading aloud. *Cat Talk* is sure to make readers wonder what their own four-legged friends have to say.

Supports the Common Core State Standards

Cat Talk Details

Date : Published March 19th 2013 by Katherine Tegen Books

ISBN : 9780060279783

Author : Patricia MacLachlan , Barry Moser (Illustrations) , Emily MacLachlan Charest

Format : Hardcover 32 pages

Genre : Poetry, Childrens, Picture Books, Animals, Cats

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From Reader Review Cat Talk for online ebook

David says

So, I asked what we are going to read next, and my 8 year old grandson shoves this book at me after he had informed me that he had already read it, wanted it for the next read-aloud, and thought I would like it. So with a cat trying to get on top of the book, and the other two making themselves scarce, I did my best to figure how each of these should be read.

Each of the poems features a particular cat, and each cat is a unique character. So, kneading our black and white "Smacky" to keep him occupied and purring, all three of us shared an enjoyable few minutes over breakfast.

The pictures are lush, the poetry brief and well phrased, the cats memorable. I used sound effects for Romeo's many calls, as that poem almost wanted me to speak cat instead of English.

This is just a fun book for anybody who has even enjoyed the company of cats.

Stacey Kahler says

Comparing this book to the one the author did on dogs really hurt this book. The dog poetry book was something special and a bit magical, but the cat one just can't compare to it. It also doesn't help that I'm not a cat person!

Marg Corjay says

Expressive illustrations of many different varieties of cats bring the poems to life in this fun book.

Krista the Krazy Kataloguer says

I assumed that the authors of this book based their poems on cats they knew and owned, but, according to the dust jacket flap, they both own dogs. So where did they find these interesting felines? My absolute favorite poem is "Bett," in which a mama cat tells us what she would name her kittens as opposed to what humans would name them. It reminded me of my own mama cats. "Romeo" made me think of the cats I've had in the past who practically velcro themselves to me--skirt kitties, my sister and I call them. Needy. You can't help but love them.

I love Barry Moser's illustrations too, especially the cat with the wise-ass look on the page opposite the title page. The first poem, "Tough Tom," is about him. I've adopted some tough toms in my time, or, perhaps I should say, they've adopted me. I had to laugh at the illustration accompanying the poem "Tuck," in which a cat likes to burrow under the covers. Now I wonder how one of the sleepers got that band-aid on his/her toe?

Cat lovers like me are sure to relate to and enjoy these poems. Highly recommended! (Their 2 poetry books about dogs are excellent too!)

Eva Yamashita says

Cat Talk is a children's poetry book with beautiful illustrations. There are 13 poems in this book, and all poems are told by 13 different cats' viewpoints. All of the cats in the book are very unique, and they find their meaning in humans' lives.

In this book, readers can also find typical cats' habits and characters. For example, cats prefer to sleep somewhere warm and comfortable such as in a mitten box, in bedclothes, on fluffy clothing, and on a copy machine. Furthermore, this book describes the inquisitiveness of cats. For instance, cats sometimes come into a bathroom and play with bubbles or running water although most cats do not like to become wet with water. Therefore, some readers who have ever owned a cat will have something that comes to mind about those cats' behavior and curious nature, so the readers can enjoy reading the poems. On the other hand, some readers who have never owned a cat also can enjoy reading the poems and learning about cats' general behavior and characteristics such as friendliness, inquisitiveness, and self-respect. In addition, the beautiful full-color illustrations and attention-grabbing writing style of the poetry never bore the readers. I recommend this book for children whose ages range from four to eight and also for animal lovers of all ages.

Linda says

I recently found this book at my library. Co-authored by Patricia MacLachlan and her daughter, Emily MacLachlan Charest, and illustrated by Barry Moser, you'll find delightful pages, each with a lovely image of a particular cat and poetic text that describes its special personality. For those who love cats, this would make a wonderful gift, and for those who teach, I can imagine having students use this example to spark their own poems about a particular favorite pet, not necessarily a cat.

As you can see from the gorgeous cover, Barry Moser shows cat personalities very well. There is the sweetest small painting of two buddies leaning together on the dedication page, a black cat and a white one, and the book begins! There is Tough Tom whom we meet as an on-the-streets cat, who walked into a warm and welcoming place, and as he said, "But you opened the window/And I walked in." We meet Minnie, a cat so dark, he says "My fur is the color of the night./I am a shadow," with an almost full page illustration of a dark night with a full moon, and Minnie, blending in! Each cat is filled with personality, both in the words and the illustration. A favorite is dear Romeo, black with a white big, reminding me of my last cat, Max, both in looks and personality. The poem reads in part, "I fall over onto people I love./You can pet me anytime/anywhere." The book pays sweet homage to cat pets, and the reasons we love them, "They've got personality!"

Michele says

Love the poetry and illustrations in this book!

Tomiko says

I am not sure why that particular illustration was chosen for the cover--it is not the strongest out of the book, so don't let it deter you. Overall, I think the poems and illustrations will appeal to cat lovers of all ages. They poems and illustratoinis are not sappy or insipid, nor are they catty (ok, maybe I mean snarky) and repulsive. Rather, cats are depicted as they truly are: individualistic furry souls with a lot of personality.

Nick says

This is a gorgeous picture book. The only thing which kept me from giving it a fifth star is that I am not sure of the intended audience. Some of the poetry seems aimed at the adults reading it, rather than to the kids for whom it seems to be formatted.

For kids familiar with cats, or for parents of kids in a family with cats, this will be a treasure for the illustrations.

Think of this as a modern reply to Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats and you won't be far off. Each pair of pages describes a cat [or group of kittens in one case] that is a feline archetype. Each painting portrays not only a cat but a clear and definitive mood moment for that cat. The combination is really good, and cat lovers will fall for it.

Reshamad says

Cuddle-some to Troublesome!

From the cutest to the most troublesome kittens, cats and toms, "Cat Talk" features furry friendly poems for children to read. Authors MacLachlan captures the many "cat" personalities in 13 different poems. Written with a gentle flow or words, these poems are told in first person and delightfully easy to read.

Meet "Tough Tom" who walks into a window with his nose scratched and ear torn up from a street fight with cats. He is cold and hungry and scared but he takes a chance and walks into a new life.

Then there is Princess Sheba Darling. This majestic graceful cat poses herself and shows off her importance in this world.

At the end there is playful and friendly Eddie who has a "job". He meets and greets people. He runs when the phone rings and makes himself busy all through the day.

A lovely set of poems for a cat lovers. Enjoy reading these out and talking about the different personalities of the feline world. Barry Moser's wonderfully warm watercolor paintings of sometimes playful and sometimes graceful cats are charming and kind to the eye.

Cheryl says

Paintings of cats - by Barry Moser. Poems - by the MacLachans. What's not to love? Well, for starters, the fact that the lovely long-haired cat isn't necessarily a she, and isn't necessarily vain. I'd rather we'd get introduced to real cats rather than stereotypical icons of our projected perceptions.

Well, to be fair, sometimes we do: mama Bett has good names for her kittens as she wishes humans would be more observant to their true natures and not just their coloring.

You might like it more than I did, and wish there were more than 13 cats featured. But I do recommend you check it out from the library before buying it.

Megan says

Twin Text

Pete the Cat I Love My White Shoes
By Eric Litwin
Published 2010

Rationale for Twin Texts Selection

These books share the genre picture books for children about cats. The first book is poems about different cats and their characteristics. It describes their essence and way of life. The other book is a fictional story about a cat. The book is about keeping a bright outlook on life, and teaching students the importance of staying positive. It is a fun and easy read to go along with the harder poem book. I will ask the students which cat is similar to Pete from the fictional book. There is one cat that is always happy and nice to everyone and the students should be able to make that connection.

Identify Text Structure in the Book

The book starts out with a title page and has one note at the end about the watercolor paintings in the book. The book is divided into a section for each poem. Each poem has a title describing the cat in the poem so the text pattern is description. The title is a different color to grab the attention of the reader. It also gives a clue to the cat's personality. Each poem has a beautiful watercolor painting to help the reader bring the cat to life in their mind, making it jump off the page. The layout of the written text and painting is different for each one. Some texts are off to the side in white space and others are incorporated around the artwork. For example, with the cat that sneaks under the covers, the text is right above the people in the painting invading the people's space like the cat does under the covers.

Strategy Application

The children are working on a creative writing unit and are going to write a story about their pet. To get ready for this we are using twin texts about cats. The children will have two examples of stories with descriptive describing words. The strategy we are going to use is webbing. I will have students listen for different words describing the cats in Cat Talk and they will make a web with all the descriptive words used

for the cats. Then in the Pete the Cat book, we are also going to be looking for descriptive words and doing the same thing. However, in this book they are describing objects making the story come alive and the students will also note the repetition of the descriptive words. That way they can see descriptive words with objects and animals. We will also discuss which cat is like Pete from the first book and why.

Kim Frank says

What the frick did I just read? lol. :)

Lisa says

I will buying this awesome book. A must have for any animal or especially cat lover!

Nancy Kotkin says

Text: 3 stars

Illustrations: 3 stars

Picture book of poetry about cats. Specific cats are given names and personalities (like Tough Tom). Cat lovers will probably enjoy this more than I do.
