

CAT AND DOG TEACHERS NOTES

Written and Illustrated by Jonathan Bentley
Published by Little Hare, an imprint of
Hardie Grant Egmont in August 2019

SYNOPSIS

One dog. One cat. One very tidy apartment. What could go wrong?

Cat is grumpy, fashion-obsessed, and a bit of a snob. Dog is excitable, bold, and bursting with energy. What do they have in common? They both want to see the world!

It's time to come up with a grand escape plan ...

Join these two loveable and incorrigibly mischievous pets as they team up to break out. They'll need brains. They'll need bravery. And they'll definitely need costumes.





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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

As a little boy, **Jonathan Bentley** liked football and drawing. When he was eight years old, he realised he wouldn't be good enough to play football for Leeds United – so he concentrated on drawing instead. He is now one of Australia's most treasured illustrators.

Jonathan has worked with authors such as Margaret Wild and Andrew Daddo, as well as writing and illustrating many of his own titles. His award-winning picture books – including *A House of Her Own*, *Pink*, *The Second Sky* and *Where is Bear?* – have been published all over the world.





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BEFORE READING

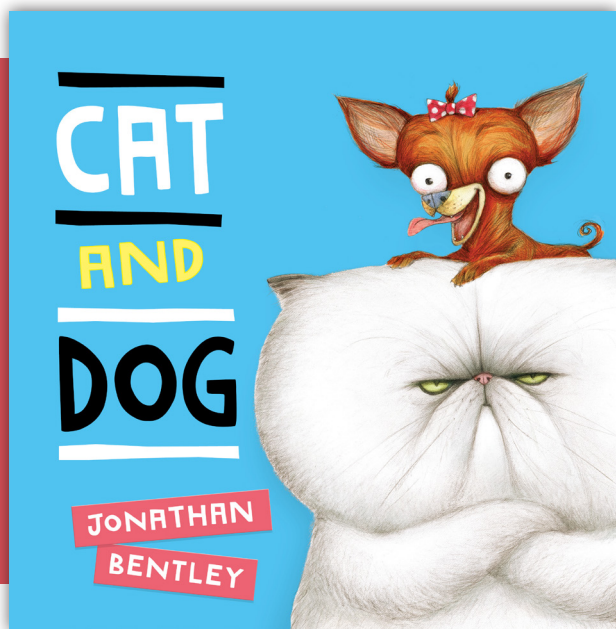
Ask students to look closely at the cover illustration.

1. What do they think *Cat and Dog* might be about?
2. What kind of book do they think this might be? Funny? Sad? Scary?
3. Do they think Cat and Dog are friends or enemies?
4. What kind of personalities do students think Cat and Dog might have?

Read the blurb.

1. Were students expecting this to be the book's storyline after their cover predictions?





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WHILE READING

1. “Would there be chaos or madness or mess? Or perfect behaviour and peace (more or less)?” Which of these scenarios do students think might happen?
2. Cat is worried someone might recognise him, do we think Cat believes he is famous? Why might he believe that?
3. Ask students if they know what “top-class pedigree” means.
4. Ask students to predict what kind of costumes Cat and Dog might come up with.
5. Ask students if they think it is okay to be messy if you are being creative.
6. Ask students what they think of Cat’s costume. Does it remind them of anything or anyone?
7. Uh oh! Things are about to get completely out of hand for Cat and Dog. Ask students to predict what might happen next. Will they get caught by their owners? Or will all be well?
8. Cat and Dog worked as a team to clean up in time. Phew! Ask students if they can spot the telltale signs in the picture that might alert their owners to what has happened.



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FURTHER ACTIVITIES

- Ask students to design and draw crazy costumes for Cat and Dog, using ordinary items from around the house.
- Can students think of any other stories where the characters have made a great mess and cleaned up in the nick of time? For example, *The Cat in the Hat*. You might like to share these stories as a class.
- Ask students to write a sequel to *Cat and Dog*. What do they get up to next? Perhaps students could imagine that Cat and Dog did manage to escape the house. Where might they have gone? What adventures might they have had? Students might like to share their stories with the class.
- Ask students to come up with possible names for Cat and Dog. If they were their pets, what might they call them?
- Ask students if they can identify what breed Cat and Dog are. They might like to research those particular breeds of cats and dogs. After researching, students might like to share clues about why the author has given these characters certain personality traits.
- Can students think of another unlikely animal pairing to write about? Perhaps a duck and a mouse? A moose and a bear?
- Students might like to look at Jonathan Bentley's other books and illustrations and do a report on their favourites.