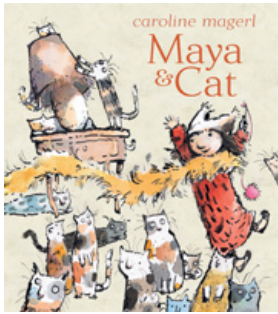




Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Maya and Cat

Author: Caroline Magerl
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*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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Outline:

On a roof, as wet as a seal, as grey as a puddle, Cat was rumbling, a rumbly purr. What does Cat want most? Feather boas? Pretty pink shoelaces? A boatful of fish under a tiny tin sail – or perhaps something much more valuable?

Affectionate and evocative, *Maya and Cat* follows a child's kindly impulse to an unexpected conclusion.

Author Information:

Caroline Magerl was born near Frankfurt in Germany and came to Australia when she was two. She lived on the yacht her family built until she was fourteen. In 2001 Caroline won the Children's Book Council of Australia Crichton Award for new talent in children's book illustration for her picture book *Grandma's Shoes* (written by Libby Hathorn). Since then she has been awarded a May Gibbs Fellowship and received an ASA children's picture book grant to work on her book *Hasel and Rose*. Nowadays she is a full-time artist, illustrator and printmaker. *Maya and Cat* is Caroline's first book with Walker.

How to Use These Notes:

This story works on many levels. The suggested activities are therefore for a wide age and ability range. Please select accordingly.

These notes are for:

- Primary F-1
- Ages 3-7

Key Learning Areas:

- English

Example of:

- Picture Book

Themes/Ideas:

- Animals
- Adventure



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Discussion Questions and Activities:

Before Reading

What do you think this book might be about just from hearing the title? How do your ideas change when you see the cover? After reading the book, compare your initial thoughts to what the book is actually about. Discuss the phrase “you can’t judge a book by its cover.”

Exploring the Book

Is *Maya and Cat* an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? How can you tell?

Who do you think the audience for this book is? Why?

How can the reader tell when a character is speaking? (e.g. punctuation)

Write a book review on *Maya and Cat*. Include what you liked about the book, who you think would enjoy it the most and mention any other books you think are similar.

On the whiteboard or on a large sheet of paper, place an image of the *Maya and Cat* cover and surround it with words that describe the book. Include words that describe what you liked and what you disliked about the book.

Examine several of the spreads and have a class discussion about the following:

- What is the main colour or colours used? What mood/feeling do these colours create?
- What objects are in the foreground (front), the midground and background of the picture? Why do you think the illustrator chose to do that?
- What are the characters on this page doing and where are they looking? Why are they doing this? What effect does this have?

How do you think Cat feels about Maya? After reading the book and knowing Cat gives Maya her kitten has your opinion changed?

What is your favourite part of *Maya and Cat*? Why?

Have you ever had an adventure with a pet? Write a story or draw a picture about an adventure you would like to have.

The character of Maya tries feather boas, pink shoelaces or a pom pom on a stick to get Cat down. What other things might you have tried? Draw a picture of you trying to get Cat down.

The character of Cat does not talk to Maya, however Maya still understands what Cat is trying to show her. How does Caroline Magerl show this through the illustrations?

Have you ever had a friend that went away? How did it make you feel? Did you feel the same or different to how Maya feels when Cat goes away?

Cats and other pets can take a lot of work to look after. Make a list of all the items you would need and time commitments you would have to make to look after a cat or another pet.

Onomatopoeia is a word that sounds similar to the sound it is describing, such as “bang”, “woof”, etc. What onomatopoeic words can you find in *Maya and Cat*? Why are these words in italics? Make a list of other onomatopoeic words you know.

A simile is a phrase that compares two things, usually with the words “as” or “like”. What similes can you find in *Maya and Cat*? Why do you think the author used similes in the story? Create a few similes of your own.

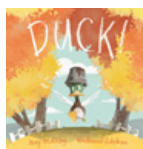
At the beginning of the story, Cat is sitting on the roof watching Maya. Why do you think she was watching her? How does Maya win Cat’s trust?

Write another story about Maya meeting another animal (such as Maya and Dog or Maya and Elephant).

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Jessica Love
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