



TEACHERS' RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Preschool to Lower primary
(ages 3-6)

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KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English
- **General capabilities:** Literacy; Critical and Creative Thinking; Visual Language

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- Learning about visual literacy
- Learning about picture books
- Learning about imaginative thinking and creativity

THEMES

- Imagination and play
- Challenging expectations
- Pets – cats and dogs¹²

PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia

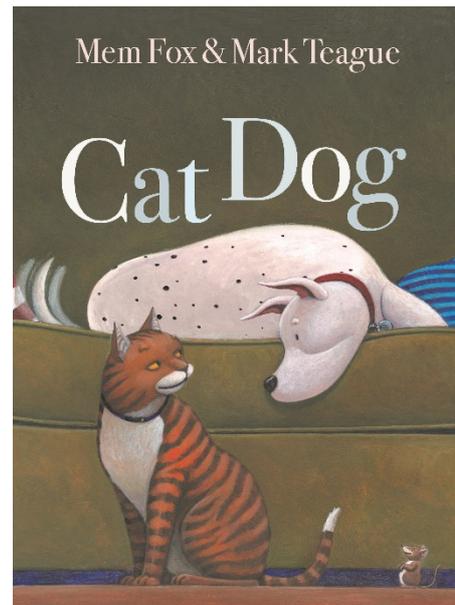
PUBLICATION DETAILS

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Cat Dog

Mem Fox & Mark Teague

PLOT SUMMARY

Join an unlikely trio for some irresistibly funny antics in this read-aloud gem from bestselling, award-winning and much-loved author Mem Fox and acclaimed illustrator Mark Teague.

There is a cat in this book.

There is also a dog.

And there is a whole lot of crazy stuff going on ...

Right?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mem Fox is the author of many loved and celebrated picture books, including *Possum Magic* which became the bestselling children's book in Australia. Her more recent books include the perennial favourite *Where is the Green Sheep?* (with Judy Horacek) and *Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes* (with Helen Oxenbury). Mem lives in Adelaide, Australia.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Mark Teague is an award-winning author and illustrator whose books include *Fly!*, *Jack and the Beanstalk and the French Fries*, *The Three Little Pigs and the Somewhat Bad Wolf* and *Dear Mrs LaRue*. He is also the illustrator of the New York Times bestselling series, *How Do Dinosaurs...?*, written by Jane Yolen. Mark lives upstate in New York with his wife, a big white dog and a small grey cat – who is currently asleep on his lap.

AUTHOR'S INSPIRATION

Mem says:

My editor was staying at my house and going through some old books of mine. She found a particularly dreadful book, and we cried with laughter over how bad it was. But she saw potential in the idea, so it was rewritten over many years and it is of course now illustrated by the sensational Mark Teague. He and I had no contact at all. I never work with my illustrators – I believe their genius is best left alone.

I can't draw for nuts so what would I know?! But I have sent raving thanks to Mark for his superb artwork. I love, love, love it.

PRE-READING

Questions

1. What does the beautiful cover of this book tell us about the story to follow? Look at the three animal characters – how do they feel about each other and how can you tell?
2. Read the blurb on the back. How many of the characters are mentioned? What do you think will be the 'crazy stuff' that's going on? What makes you think that?
 - Do these things tell us it will be a gentle story about family pets or does the cover tell us it will be a rollicking, fun picture book?

Activities

1. Read the book together without stopping for questions or to talk about the text.

2. Read the book a second time and with this reading, stop at the endpapers before you begin the reading to note the simple painting style and brush strokes. The children should keep an eye out for this painting style in other parts of the illustrations within the book. Note also the repeated elements in the simple illustrations. How do they help in the flow of the story?

WRITING STYLE

Mem's writing in this fun story is 'spare' and every word she uses matters.

The Illustrations complement the words in an equally clean and simple delivery that still provides many opportunities for interaction with and anticipation of the story.

In this zippy, call-and-response-style adventure, a cat and dog are astonished to find a mouse in their house! The three circle each other while the story sometimes correctly describes their antics—and sometimes doesn't. Young readers will love participating by pointing out which parts are right and wrong.

Note the importance of the rhythm of the text: Short questions of similar length throughout followed by a 'yes' or 'no' answer; repeated words such as 'right?' at the end of each sentence inviting the child reader to think about their answer; and the call-and-response technique with answers over the page to create a sense of anticipation for the child reader.

Questions

1. Discuss the language in the book that helps build a sense of the story and its major themes?
 - e.g. *Once there was a huge, scary dog. Right? Wrong! But there was a cat.*
2. Ask the children to find the two places where the expected response is different.
3. Discuss the illustrations in the context of the story and how they complement the words and the language to help tell the story. Consider:
 - colour palette
 - facial expressions
 - contrast between what we think has happened and what has actually happened (particularly the scary dog on p3 vs the real dog on p4), including the different reactions of the animals.



- the role of the illustration elements that stay the same in both scenarios, eg the couch, pillows, lamp, ball and bone.
- the inclusion of the mouse, even before it's mentioned.
- how the illustrations create the build-up of the action.

Activities

1. Ask the children to continue the story by thinking up some more call-and-response questions and answers, based around what they think happens next. Did the mouse come out to say hi?

POST-READING QUESTIONS

1. What do you think this story was about?
2. How did this story make you feel?
3. Did the way that you felt change as the story went on – and particularly when it finished? Remind the students about the 'scary dog' at the beginning. Was he really scary?
4. Have you read other stories by Mem Fox? Is this similar or different?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Can you remember a time when how you imagined something would be like wasn't how it ended up being at all? For example:
 - Your first day at school.
 - Patting a dog, cat, horse etc for the first time
 - Meeting someone new
 - Going on a train or plane for the first time.
- Can you think of another picture book with an unexpected ending?
- Do you have a pet or pets?
 - Spend some time watching what they do during the day. How are they different to humans in the way they behave?

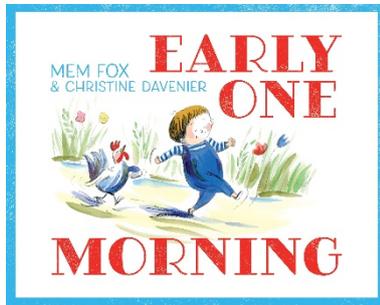
ACTIVITIES

- Reader another story with an unexpected ending.
1. Copy the illustration on pp28-29 (the cat and dog looking into the mouse hole), and cut out the faces to create masks.
 2. Play a version of 'Duck Duck Goose' called 'Mouse Mouse Cat Dog', where the person who is 'it' is the Mouse who calls out one of two words to the person they decide to tip: either 'CAT' (they both have to run clockwise around the circle) or 'DOG' (run anti-clockwise around the circle).

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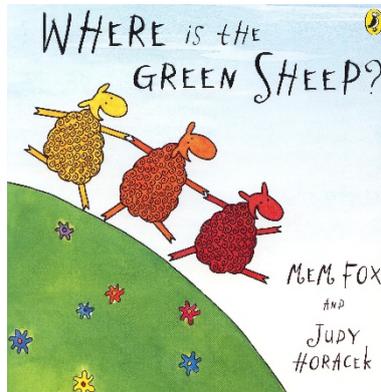


FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



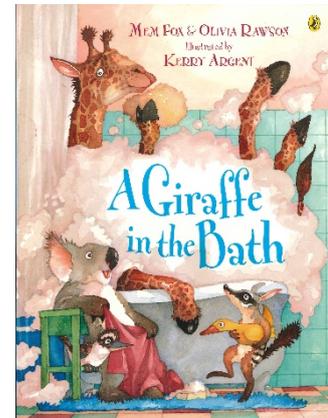
Early One Morning
by Mem Fox
& Christine Davenier

Early one morning on the farm, a boy sets out to find his breakfast. Where could it be? In the tractor? In the haystack? With the sheep? With the ponies . . .? Little readers will delight in the story's guessing game and following the boy on his ramble around the farm.



Where is the Green Sheep?
by Mem Fox & Judy
Horacek

Here is the blue sheep, and here is the red sheep. Here is the bath sheep, and here is the bed sheep. But where is the green sheep?



Giraffe in the Bath
by Mem Fox, Olivia Rawson
& Kerry Argent

*A sheep in the shower?
A roo on the loo?
A giraffe in the bath?
Now does that make you laugh?*

A rollicking, rhythmic adventure with a hilarious cast of zany friends.

ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	AGE RANGE	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
Cat Dog	Mem Fox & Mark Teague	9781761045868	3+	\$19.99		
Early One Morning	Mem Fox & Christine Davenier	9781761040030	3+	\$19.99		
Where is the Green Sheep?	Mem Fox & Judy Horacek	9780143501763	3+	\$14.99 (pb)		
Giraffe in the Bath	Mem Fox, Olivia Rawson & Kerry Argent	9780143502371	3+	\$14.99 (pb)		
Koala Lou	Mem Fox & Pamela Lofts	9780140540635	3+	\$14.99 (pb)		
Hunwick's Egg	Mem Fox & Pamela Lofts	9780143501350	3+	\$14.9(pb)		
Night Noises	Mem Fox & Terry Denton	9780143501480	3+	\$14.9(pb)		
The Tiny Star	Mem Fox & Freya Blackwood	9780670078127	3+	\$24.99		
TOTAL						

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