



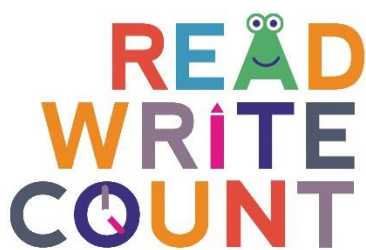
# The King Cat

A case study from  
 Castletown Primary School,  
 Highland about using the  
 book with pupils

Primary 2

First Level

Resource created by  
 Audrey Mackay



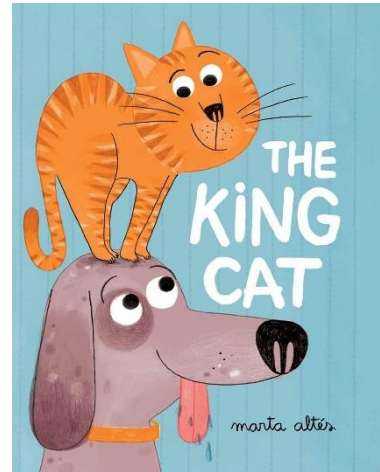
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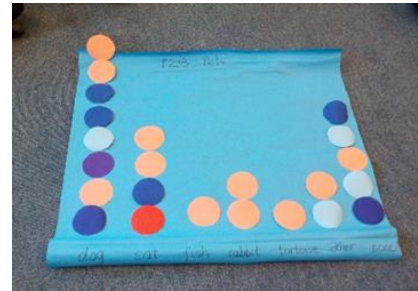
I was extremely excited to be invited to preview and use a book with my class from the new Read, Write, Count bag. I waited in anticipation for the book to arrive, while thinking hard about the activities I could use to support the mystery text.

When *The King Cat* by Marta Altés arrived, I was immediately attracted to the simplistic style the illustrator had used to capture the characters of the animals in the story and I knew that the children and I would most definitely enjoy sharing this book together!



### Cat research

Prior to sharing the story, I thought it would be useful to identify children's familiarity with cats, so as part of a maths lesson we began creating a class floor graph to identify pets the children own. This opened many opportunities for discussion about the information collected and displayed. Following on, we then worked in trios to collect information on how cats behave. This provided a varied account of basic feline traits but the children didn't really identify with the aloof characteristics that makes a cat special, so I knew that would be an aspect of the story to focus on as we enjoyed how the author depicted this in the illustrations and text together.



### Introducing the book

The children were fully engaged as we shared this unfamiliar book and they waited in anticipation as the story unfolded, with some very good predictions of what may happen next!

The story naturally lends itself to discussions about emotions of frustration and jealousy, arrival of new babies, friendships and problem solving of disputes and we did indeed focus on this. However, it was the illustrations that we found particularly captivating and I knew this was what was going to lead us into our next learning opportunity.

### Creating a portrait gallery

The children were intrigued by how the illustrator, who obviously knows and loves cats, had demonstrated this love through the 'photos' displayed in every room and the way King Cat was portrayed in its various positions, so we decided to make our own gallery of King Cat portraits.

We looked at various positions of cats as they lie, sit or stand and looked at the work of some artists to help stimulate our creative juices. The children were then armed with a pencil to sketch, a paint pallet, mixing trays and a variety of brushes to create their perfect King Cat picture and what a fantastic job they did!



I strongly value individual creativeness in children in all that they do, and through teaching skills of using a variety of tools and techniques and allowing them to explore and experiment with colour, it enabled us to create a very interesting and individual gallery of King Cats!



Following on from some previous ICT work, the children then continued with the King Cat theme and practised their keyboard skills, typing a few sentences about him before highlighting, selecting a new font, saving and printing their work. This completed our display perfectly!

My class most definitely enjoyed using this book as a starting point for many activities and it has been a useful reminder that something as simple as a story can produce a stimulating hook for delivering learning experiences and outcomes across the curriculum for the children.

We really enjoyed exploring this book and we are sure many other children will too!