



EDUCATOR GUIDE

SUPER CATS

True Stories of Felines That Made History

by Elizabeth MacLeod

GENRE: children's non-fiction

THEMES: arts, domestic animals, ancient civilizations, environment, extinction, geography, health, modern history, occupations, religion, science, technology, war, wild animals, women, world cultures

SUITABLE FOR: Grades 4–7, Ages 9–11

GUIDED READING LEVEL: Fountas and Pinnell I

LEXILE: 1010L

COMMON CORE STANDARDS: L.5.3,4,4a,4b,5,6 W.5.2,3,4,7,8,9,9b,10
RF.5.3,3a,4,4a,4c RI.5.1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
SL.5.1,1c,1d,2,3,4,5,6

SUMMARY:

It's amazing but true: there are approximately six hundred million pet cats around the world! And why not? Not only are they playful, cuddly, and smart, they are also very helpful. Best known as skilled hunters, they can also predict storms and earthquakes, bring comfort to the sick, and have been known to detect diseases in humans.

The love of cats goes back to the ancient Egyptians who worshipped them. Young readers will be fascinated to find out all the rituals attached to cat worship—and will be surprised to discover how cats played a role in the defeat of the Egyptians by the Persians.

In her lively narrative style, author Elizabeth MacLeod recounts the origin of the superstition about black cats—and how owning any cat could have saved your life during the Plague. She explores the role of cats in Japanese and Chinese culture, and provides a useful guide to how cats communicate, both with other cats and humans.

Please remember that the suggested questions and activities within this educator guide are meant to serve as a starting point. Educators are encouraged to select items from each part of the guided inquiry process that work best for their style of teaching and will help them meet their goals when covering the topics in this book. Activities and prompts should be tweaked and/or reformatted to best fit your students, context, and community to ensure equity and inclusion.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

1. Imagine you're one of the sailors on board the HMS Amethyst. Write a letter home telling your family about Simon's adventures and how brave he is.
2. Draw a poster or make a collage about one of the cats in the book.
3. With a friend, pretend you're a talk show host interviewing one of the Siamese cats that detected the listening devices in the Dutch embassy in Moscow. Create a script, put on costumes, and present your interview to your class.
4. The stories in this book take place in many different times and places. In which of these times or places would you most like to live? Give three reasons why.
5. Which is your favorite story in the book? Give three reasons why you like it.

CAT JOKES TO TICKLE YOUR WHISKERS!

What vegetable do cats like the most? *As-purr-agus!*

What side of a cat has the most fur? *The outside!*

What kind of cats like to go bowling? *Alley cats!*

Where did the cats go for a field trip? *The mew-seum!*

Why is it hard for a leopard to hide? *Because he's always spotted!*