

Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource

Book Notes

**Alley Cat / Gato callejero**

Author Claire Violet

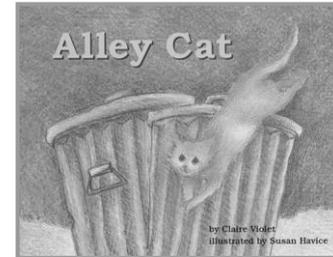
Illustrator Susan Havice

8 pages ■ 30 Eng. words ■ 38 Spn. words

Fountas and Pinnell Level C

Reading Recovery Level 4

Descubriendo la Lectura Level 5



Alley Cat

SYNOPSIS

Alley Cat appears to have the upper hand until Zak arrives.

WHAT THE BOOK OFFERS

- Fiction narrative
- First person
- Past tense
- Setting and description of character on title page
- Repeated pattern for four pages with noun change at end of sentence
- Change of sentence structure indicates climax
- Final sentence spread across two pages
- Clear text/illustration match
- Some rhyme
- Open-ended
- Punctuation: periods, ellipsis, exclamation points

POSSIBLE SKILLS EMPHASIS

- Understanding constancy of text
- Identifying changes within pattern
- Initial letters and *ch* blend
- Identifying letter patterns giving same sound (-*ee*) through *e*, *ey*, *ee*
- Understanding change of structure often indicates ending or story climax

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Alley Cat / Gato callejero (continued)

INTRODUCING THE BOOK

Using the cover illustration: *Does this cat look like a lap cat who likes to just sit and be petted, or does he look like a cat who gets up to mischief or one who seeks adventure? Think about the reasons for your choice.*

I wonder how he came to be called "Alley Cat."

What sound do you hear at the end of the word "alley?" Which letters give that sound? Can you think of other words that end with a long e sound?

FOCUS OF INSTRUCTION

After reading page 2: *Look at the text on page 3. Which parts are the same as the text on page 2? Where does it change? What will that word tell you? What kind of word is that? What does it start with? What other letters and sounds can you see and hear?*

Check your word.

Now read pages 2 and 3.

Turn to page 4. What do you notice? So what kind of word will you need to think about? What letter and sound does it start with? What other sounds can you see and hear?

Check that your word fits with the story and matches the picture.

Page 6: What do you notice about this page?

Page 7: What does the punctuation on this page tell you?

Anticipate what words the author will use on the next page to end the story.

FOLLOWING THE READING

Why did the author change the sentence pattern? That is good information to remember at the end of stories that you write.

Describe Alley Cat's feelings about being chased by the dog. What sound might he be making? What do you think he is hoping for?

And what about the dog?

How do you think Alley Cat got down from the tree?

Let's write our ideas and clip our stories on the inside back cover for others to read.

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Additional Comprehension Prompts For Oral or Written Use Before, During, and After Reading	
FINISH THIS THOUGHT	<i>I would not like to be an alley cat because . . . When the bird saw the alley cat, the bird felt . . .</i>
USE YOUR MEMORY	<i>How did Alley Cat save himself from Zak, the dog? What's another way a cat could save himself?</i>
WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?	<i>Why do you think dogs like to chase cats? Do you think cats like to chase dogs? Why or why not?</i>
BE CREATIVE	<i>Draw a map showing each place Alley Cat went and each thing he chased before he climbed up the tree.</i>
VOCABULARY AGENT	<i>Say the word, CHASED. What are 5 words that start with the 'ch' sound that you hear at the beginning of the word, CHASED? Draw a picture of each 'ch' word.</i>

Book Note by Margaret E. Mooney

Additional Comprehension Prompts by Dr. Connie Hebert

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