

Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource

Book Notes



The Cat with No Tail

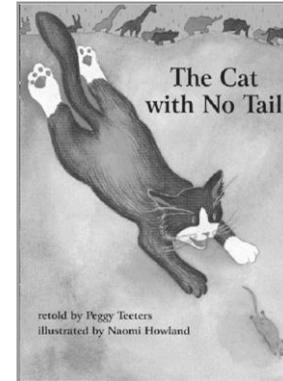
Author Peggy Teeters

Illustrator Naomi Howland

16 pages ■ 137 words

Fountas and Pinnell Level I

Reading Recovery Level 14



The Cat with No Tail

SYNOPSIS

A folk tale from the Isle of Man describing how the Manx cat became tailless.

WHAT THE BOOK OFFERS

- Retelling of a folk tale, action rather than description, traditional folk tale/myth beginning and ending, anthropomorphic
- Third person
- Past tense
- Phrases that may be unfamiliar, e.g., “paid no attention”
- Link with *The Bear’s Tale*, a folk tale telling how an animal lost its tail, also at this level in the **Books for Young Learners** series
- Longer sentences, including varied structures as on page 11

POSSIBLE SKILLS EMPHASIS

- Using knowledge of folk tale to predict action
- Coping with longer sentences
- Developing fluency, identifying chunks of meaning
- Increasing understanding of features of retellings and of folk tales
- Identifying similarities and differences between this retelling and *The Bear’s Tale*

Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource

Book Notes



The Cat with No Tail (continued)

INTRODUCING THE BOOK

The cover gives us several clues about what and who we will meet in the book. It also helps us to plan our reading. What do you notice about the author's credit? What does that make you think about?

Consider the title and the cat in the cover illustration. What do you notice? How does that help us think about the content of the book?

Now let's think about the characters—a cat and a mouse. How do they treat each other?

Think about the significance of the other animals in the illustration. What other story tells about pairs of animals? Who was the main character in that story?

And when we think about all of those clues and we look at the author credit line, what do we know about the kind of story this will be?

FOCUS OF INSTRUCTION

- Using knowledge of folk tales to predict characters' actions, probable outcome, and, at the beginning and end of the story, language structures

How do you expect this story to begin? What do you know will be in the story? What has to happen before the story can end? How might it end?

- Scanning text to identify words that go together to aid fluency by drawing attention to some of the words that cannot stand alone—she, too, a, the
- Noticing unusual phrases and sentence structures, for example, page 11

FOLLOWING THE READING

- Link with *The Bear's Tale*.

Could this folk tale have been called The Cat's Tale? Give reasons why you do or do not think that would be a good choice.

- Discuss similarities and differences between the two retellings. Add to list of features of folk tales.
- Retell the story from a first person point of view, perhaps the cat's, the mouse's, Noah's, or one of the other animals who watched from the ark.

Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource

Book Notes



The Cat with No Tail (continued)

Additional Comprehension Prompts For Oral or Written Use Before, During, and After Reading	
FINISH THIS THOUGHT	<i>If I were a cat, I would like to live . . . because I could . . . The drawings in this book are . . . because they . . .</i>
USE YOUR MEMORY	<i>Why was the cat the last animal to get onto Noah's Ark? Why did Noah have to close the doors? What makes the Manx cat different from most cats? What is one fact about Manx cats that you found interesting? Check the Nonfiction Note box on the inside back cover for more facts.</i>
WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?	<i>Why do you think the cat was chasing the mouse? Do you believe this story is true? Why or why not? What do you think happened to the mouse? What makes you think that?</i>
BE CREATIVE	<i>Draw a picture of a great big room in the lower part of the Ark where the animals slept at night. Show the animals in all different places around the room. Where do they sleep? Do some of the animals sleep on shelves or in hammocks or under furniture? Do some of them sleep upside down or in a shell? Think! Be sure to label all the animals in this great big room. Did you forget to show the Manx cat with no tail? Meow!</i>
VOCABULARY AGENT	<i>Use each of the words below in a sentence: *start *started *rain *rained *call *called *try *tried *catch *caught *tell *told *close *closed</i>

Book Note by Margaret E. Mooney

Additional Comprehension Prompts by Dr. Connie Hebert

© 2016 by Richard C. Owen Publishers, Inc./www.RCOwen.com