

Cats Unit: Fiction and Non-Fiction Year 5
Y6: Knowledge Organiser and Key
Outcomes (8 weeks)

Unit Summary

This unit brings together an exciting blend of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry centred around the theme of cats. Pupils will explore and enjoy a wide variety of stories, information texts, and poems, and will also have the opportunity to develop their own writing across a range of styles.

Core Text Summary

Varjak Paw explores how a young cat discovers courage and identity as he steps beyond the safety of his home and confronts the dangers of the outside world. The story highlights themes of bravery as Varjak faces intimidating threats, the importance of heritage through the teachings of his ancestor Jalal, and the struggle for self-discovery as he learns what makes him unique. Along the way, he experiences loyalty and friendship, learns to persevere through fear and hardship, and confronts bullying both within his family and in the wider city. Together, these themes create a tale about growing up, trusting others, and finding one's place in a challenging world.

Core Oracy Activities

Pupils take turns "becoming" a character—Varjak, Tuffy or one of TS Eliot's poetic cats. The rest of the class asks them questions about motives, feelings, or actions.

Using TS Eliot cat poems, pupils practise reading aloud with attention to voice projection, rhythm, and expression.

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SPaG Objectives and Writing Outcomes

Expanded Noun Phrases: "The City Beyond the Wall"
Direct Speech: "A Conversation With Jalal"
Parenthesis: Inner Thoughts of Varjak
Modal Verbs for Advice: "Holly's Street-Smart Rules"
Synonym and Antonym Work: Varjak's Feelings Bank

- Write a description of the city beyond the wall from Varjak's Point of View. Incorporate expanded noun phrases, creating a sense of awe and wonder.
- Write a missing chapter
- Create a guide to looking after your pet cat

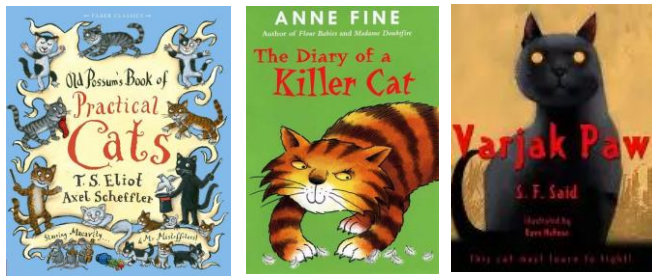
Core Writing Objectives

Identify audience and purpose; select the right form with increasing independence.

- Use similar texts as models; collect ideas from reading/research.
- Plan narratives considering setting, character and structure.

Begin to describe settings, characters and atmosphere effectively.

- Begin to integrate dialogue to convey character and advance action



Key Words

Distinctive – standing out as different in a noticeable way.
Evolved – developed or grown over time.
Variety – a range of different things.
Dominant – most powerful or influential.
Individual – single, separate, or unique.
Prefer – to like something better than something else.
Corrupted – made dishonest or altered from an original state.
Deliberately – done on purpose or intentionally.
Cackled – laughed harshly or wickedly.
Cowering – crouching down in fear.

Core Reading Objectives

- Read books which are structured in different ways.
- Read for pleasure and for information
- Read aloud fluently, using punctuation, expression and intonation showing awareness of the audience.
- Prepare and rehearse poems and plays to read aloud and perform.
- Ask a variety of questions to improve understanding as the text develops.
- Explore the meaning of new words by 'reading around the word' and investigating its meaning in context