

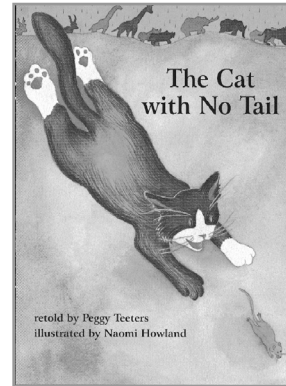
Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource

Book Notes



The Cat with No Tail

Author Peggy Teeters
 Illustrator Naomi Howland
 16 pages ■ 137 words



The Cat with No Tail

Em	Early				Fluent			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
	S		G		I			

S = Shared G = Guided I = Independent

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*

Em	Early				Fluent			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
	S		G		I			

S = Shared G = Guided I = Independent

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.