

SPLAT THE CAT

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by Rob Scotton

Ages: 4-8; Grades: PreK-3

Themes: School, Friendship, Animals and Pets, Growing Up, Humor

Running Time: 7 minutes

SUMMARY

Splat is nervous about his first day of Cat School. Really nervous. He tries hiding, but his mom finds him. He can't find any clean socks, until his mom reminds him that he doesn't wear socks. He gets stuck at the front door, the gate, and a lamppost. Things start to look up when he meets his teacher, Mrs. Wimpydimple, and the rest of his class. Soon, Splat is learning amazing things about cats that he never knew. By the end of the day, Splat has made many new friends and has even taught the teacher something new.

OBJECTIVES

- Students will make text-to-self connections.
- Students will write a personal narrative about their first day of school.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Complete an anticipation guide with the students. Tell students that they are going to watch a movie about a cat's first day of Cat School. Ask students to anticipate what Cat School might be like. Guiding questions:

- What do you think the students will learn at Cat School?
- What do you think Cat School will look like?
- What will the teacher be like?

Record students' answers on the board or chart paper. Follow up by having students draw a picture of how they envision Cat School. Encourage students to watch and listen for whether or not their predictions are confirmed in the movie.

Discuss being nervous with students. Guiding questions:

- What does it mean to be nervous?
- What are some situations that might make a person nervous?
- How do people act when they're nervous?
- When was a time when you were nervous? What helped you feel better?

Tell students that one of the characters in the movie is nervous about his first day of school. Encourage them to watch and listen for how he acts and how others act toward him. Ask them to think about how they might act if they were in Splat's situation.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Introduce text-to-self connections. Tell students that a text-to-self connection is when you can relate to one of the characters or events in a book or movie. Give students some examples of a way that you can relate to one of the characters in *Splat the Cat*. Show students hand motions to go along with making a text-to-self connection. Have them hold their hands up like a book, then point to themselves, then clasp their hands together to show a connection. Then, ask students to make their own text-to-self connections with the movie. Invite students to share their connections with each other. Close by having students draw a picture of their connection and complete the sentence: "I connect to _____ because..." Extend the text-to-self connections lesson by comparing Splat's class to the students' class. Connect this with the Before Viewing anticipation guide. Were the students' predictions correct? How was Splat's class different and the same from their class?

Ask students to think back to their first day of school. How did they feel? Was there anything in particular that they were nervous about? Invite them to bring in a photograph of their first day of school if they have one. Give them time to share their photographs and describe how they were feeling when

the picture was taken. Then, guide students through the writing process. Use the ideas that they gave to make a simple web that describes how they felt on the first day of school. Then provide students with various sentence starters and model using ideas from the web to write a story of a few sentences describing their first day of school. Students who are in a pre-writing phase can dictate to an adult or draw pictures to show their story. After students have finished their stories, give them time to illustrate them and share them with the class.

Give students a drawing or photograph of an empty classroom. Then, provide them with magazines that have pictures of different kinds of animals. Show students how to cut out the pictures of the animals and arrange them in the classroom as if they are going to school. Encourage students to add to the picture by drawing in books, games, writing, and any other activities that the animals may be doing at school. Display the collages in the classroom along with a copy of the book *Splat the Cat*.

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