

PET SHOW!

Pet Show!

by Ezra Jack Keats (MacMillan)

Themes: Pets/City Living/Kindness

Grade Level: K-3

Running Time: 7 minutes, iconographic

Summary

Pet Show is the story of a boy named Archie who is about to enter his pet cat in the pet show. However, just before the pet show is to begin Archie's cat is nowhere to be found! Poor Archie! All of his friends leave for the show with their pets while Archie waves goodbye from his apartment window.

The pet show is as exciting as everyone expected it would be. And each person who entered the contest wins a ribbon for his or her pet. Just as the show is ending, Archie runs to the judges, holding a paper bag. Archie is followed by an elderly woman with a cat walking beside her. The cat looks exactly like Archie's cat! The judges award the woman a blue ribbon for having a cat with the longest whiskers. Archie is also awarded a ribbon for the pet he carries in a jar in the paper bag. Archie's pet was an invisible germ---the quietest germ in the show!

The story ends with everyone returning home from the show, and the elderly woman saying to Archie, "He's really your cat, isn't he?" Archie tells the woman that she should keep the ribbon and happily runs to join his friends.

Objectives

- Children will be introduced to different kinds of pets
- Children will learn about the importance of showing kindness toward others.

- Children will explore the meaning of friendship

Before Viewing Activities

Share the book Pet Show with children.

Then ask:

What do you think Archie liked most about his cat?
What would you have brought to the pet show if you couldn't find your pet?
Why do you think Archie wanted the woman to keep the ribbon?
How do you think Archie felt at the end of the story?

Talk with children about their pets. Ask: What is your pet's name? How do you care for it? What do you feed it? Where does your pet sleep? What do you and your pet do together?

Discuss children's friendships. Ask: What do you and your friends enjoy doing together? What happens when you and your friends argue? Where do you and your friends go together? What special things do you share with your friends?

After Viewing Activities

Arrange to visit a pet shop with children. Before your visit, work with children to draw up a list of the different kinds of pets they expect to see in the shop. During your visit, have children take turns checking off the animals on their list that they see, adding names of animals to the list that they see, and adding names of animals to the list that they see but may not have thought of before the visit. Encourage children to question the shop owners/workers about the pets.

Try this activity to encourage creative thinking among children. Tell children that you are going to have a very special kind of pet show in the classroom. This show will be special because each animal entered must be an imaginary animal. As children approach the "panel of judges" have them describe the imaginary animals they are holding or pulling on an invisible leash. Encourage children to describe physical characteristics of their pets, the things they eat, and the way they care for them. Make blue ribbons cut from construction paper that the "judges" can award to the pet show entries.

Remind children of the way Archie showed kindness toward the elderly woman in the film. Ask: How do you think the woman would have felt if Archie asked for the ribbon for himself? How do you think Archie felt as he ran to join his friends after talking to the woman? Encourage children to describe occasions when they may have shown kindness to others.

Other book based films and videos about pets are available from Weston Woods. These include:

THE DAY JIMMY'S BOA ATE THE WASH written by Trinkia Hakes Noble and illustrated by Steven Kellogg

MADLINE'S RESCUE by Ludwig Bemelmans

MILLIONS OF CATS by Wanda Gag

THE MYSTERIOUS TADPOLE by Steven Kellogg

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