

CAT & CANARY



CFE 3219V

OPEN CAPTIONED
WESTON WOODS STUDIOS
1994
Grade Levels: PS-4
6 minutes

DESCRIPTION

Their owner assumes they do nothing all day, but Cat and Canary have an adventure with a kite over the rooftops and buildings of New York City. Cat enjoys his flight until a snowstorm approaches. Rescued by Canary and safely home, Cat dreams of flying again. Based on the book by Michael Foreman. Animated.

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

- To illustrate the importance of friendship.
- To provide an animated, visual representation of the book by Michael Foreman.
- To show that the reality of a situation is not always as it appears.
- To foster acceptance of individual differences.

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Read the CAPTION SCRIPT to determine unfamiliar vocabulary and language concepts.
2. On a map, locate New York City. Display various pictures of tall buildings and bridges in New York City. Discuss what it might be like to live there.
3. Host a show and tell with pictures of pets. Identify the pets and describe what they like to do.
4. Display some pictures of cats and canaries. Differentiate between the two pets and discuss what kind of relationship they might have.
5. Explain that Cat and Canary are best friends. Discuss and share personal experiences about friendship.
6. Explain that this story is about Cat and Canary having an adventure. Predict what the adventure might be.
7. Read the book *Cat and Canary* by Michael Foreman.

DURING SHOWING

1. View the video more than once, with one showing uninterrupted.
2. Pause as Cat watches other cats chasing birds. Discuss why Cat doesn't chase birds, even though other cats do.
3. Point out the many birds flocking above Cat. Explain that the birds feel safe around Cat on his roof. Share similar experiences of feeling safe.
4. Pause as Cat becomes frightened when the snowstorm approaches. Predict the result.
5. Pause as Cat arrives home. Discuss the irony of the owner thinking of being lazy like his cat.

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. Discuss and share reasons friendship is important.
 - a. List examples of behaviors which show friendship between Cat and Canary.
 - b. Generate ideas from daily lives about what friends can do together.
2. List reasons Cat does not chase birds.
3. Sequence the events of Cat and Canary's adventure.
4. Define *storm*. Discuss different kinds of storms and how each storm can be dangerous.
5. Discuss what Cat should do differently when he tries to untangle the kite which is caught on the television antenna.
6. Identify and describe emotions Cat experiences throughout the story.

Applications and Activities

1. Imagine, then draw and write about an adventure of flying over buildings in a large city.
2. Compare the video with the book.
3. In writing, create a different conclusion to the story.

4. Draw and caption the events of Cat and Canary's adventure.

5. Using ASL, retell the story of Cat and Canary.

Evaluate the retelling as to whether it:

- a. Gives an introduction
- b. Includes a conclusion
- c. Is sequenced accordingly
- d. Is signed clearly
- e. Makes use of appropriate facial expressions and other nonmanual grammatical signals.

6. Make a booklet emphasizing that friendship is important. Include:

- a. Reasons for friendships.
- b. Where to make friends such as school, home, and the neighborhood.
- c. Actions to foster friendship.

7. Hypothesize why Cat dreams of flying again. Describe his second adventure.

8. Discuss the secret life Cat and Canary have that is unknown to the owner.

- a. Write about a secret life that is unknown to someone.
- b. Compare this secret life to Cat and Canary's.

9. Imagine a pet being left alone all day long. List possible things that might happen, or write about one adventure the pet has.

10. Discuss the circle of dissatisfaction in the characters. For example, the owner wants to be like Cat while Cat wants to be like Canary.

11. Discuss examples of personal dissatisfaction and their results.

WEBSITES

Explore the Internet to discover sites related to this topic. Check the CFV website for related information (<http://www.cfv.org>).

CAPTION SCRIPT

Following are the captions as they appear on the video. Teachers are encouraged to read the script prior to viewing the video for pertinent vocabulary, to discover language patterns within the captions, or to determine content for introduction or review. Enlarged copies may be given to students as a language exercise.

(male narrator) It was dawn in the city.	He never chased birds.
Cat watched the winter sky change from night to day.	After all, his best friend was a canary.
Canary was still asleep in her cage.	All the birds flocked to his roof.
Every day Cat watched his master get ready for work.	Most days his roof was a blizzard of birds.
Every day the man said, "You are lucky.	One windy day, Cat found a kite tangled on a television antenna.
You just lie around the house all day, lazy Cat."	When he untied it, he became caught in the string.
Then he put on his hat and coat and went to work.	Suddenly the wind came up and Cat was whisked
But every day as soon as the man had left,	into the air and over the streets.
Cat let Canary out of her cage.	The cats on the other roofs were amazed to see Cat flying.
Canary always flew around the room a few times.	Winds rushing between the high buildings blew him higher
Then they had breakfast together and went up to the roof.	until he was flying among the tallest skyscrapers.
Cat watched Canary dive and whirl around in the sky.	Canary tried desperately to keep up with him.
He wished he could fly with his friend	Cat was thrilled to be suddenly soaring free as a bird.
above the streets and bridges to the land beyond the river.	The sun turned the great buildings to gold and silver,
Cat often watched other cats on other roofs chasing birds.	and threw Cat's giant shadow across surprised people

far below.

But soon the sun was covered
by storm clouds

and Cat no longer felt
free as a bird.

The huge buildings now looked
dangerous and threatening.

There was no way Cat
could control the kite.

He was being blown farther
and farther from home.

Below he could
see the icy river.

Snow began to fall.

Just as Cat was about
to give up,

Canary appeared with a large
flock of birds.

They took the kite strings
and turned toward home.

Down they went,
through the snow

toward the bright flashing
lights of the city.

They landed on their roof
just as their master

turned the corner.

The man did not see them.

His head was bent
against the wind,

and snow blew into his face
and down his neck.

"Oh, to be a cat,"
he thought,

"to stay home where
it's cozy and do nothing."

Cat waved to the birds
and tied the kite

back onto the television
antenna.

Then Cat and Canary
raced downstairs.

When their master opened
the door,

Canary was swinging in the cage
and Cat was curled up on the mat

with his eyes closed.

"What a lazy cat!" said the man.

"I bet you haven't moved
all day."

"Tomorrow," Cat thought,
"if we all fly together,

"we can go to the land
beyond the river,

and still be back
by nightfall."

Funding for purchase
and captioning of this video

was provided by the
U.S. Department of Education:

PH: 1-800-572-5580 (V).

