

The Catawampus Cat

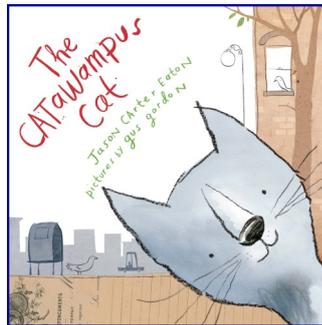
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Publisher: Viking/Penguin

ISBN 9780143785583 SCIS: 1801562

\$24.99

When the Catawampus comes to town the people don't at first notice it has arrived. But slowly, slowly, as they take in the cat's aspect, things change; one might say they even become radical! It's amazing what life a-kilter can reveal.



Themes:

- Different perspectives
- Change
- Taking notice
- Appreciating your surroundings

Discussion Questions:

- Before you read the story, what do you think it will be about?
- Have you ever heard the word 'Catawampus'? Do you think it is a real word? If so, what does it mean? (Answer: n.<1. Diagonal or at an angle. 2. Askew, awry.)
- Why do you think that no one noticed the Catawampus Cat appear in their town?
- Can you recall what the townspeople were all doing on that day?
- Who was the first to see him? What effect did he have on the grocer and his wife? How and why do you think this happened?
- Do you think that you will start to look at things in a different way and appreciate the simple things in your life more after reading this story?
- As a class, make a list of things that we might all take for granted.
- 'They spotted prized possessions they thought they'd never see again. And rediscovered old friends they thought they'd never know again. Everyone was happy'. As a class, discuss how change and looking at things from a 'different angle' can affect all aspects of our daily lives.
- Why do you think the Catawampus Cat left town so quickly?
- Why did he 'straighten himself out as he left? What is the significance of this?
- What is the overriding message that you have taken from this story?

Activities:

- Design your own poster to promote 'Catawampus Cat Day'. Make sure to draw everything on an angle, which might be harder than you think!
- The Catawampus Cat changed many peoples lives. Create your own scenario and write your own story about an everyday situation that could be different if it were looked at in a different perspective.
- Choose your favourite animal and paint a picture of it on an angle. Try to be as creative as you can. Display these in your classroom.