

## **Cat Dog**

By Mem Fox & Illustrated by Mark Teague

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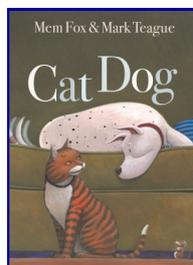
Join an unlikely animal trio for some irresistibly funny antics in this read-aloud gem from bestselling, award-winning and much-loved author Mem Fox and acclaimed illustrator Mark Teague.

There is a cat in this book.

There is also a dog.

And there is a whole lot of crazy stuff going on ...

Right?



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

### **Themes:**

- Imagination and play
- Challenging expectations
- Pets – cats and dogs

### **Discussion Questions and Activities:**

- Discuss the language in the book that helps build a sense of the story and its major themes?
  - ◇ e.g. Once there was a huge, scary dog. Right? Wrong! But there was a cat.
- Ask the children to find the two places where the expected response is different.
- Discuss the illustrations in the context of the story and how they complement the words and the language to help tell the story. Consider:
  - ◇ colour palette
  - ◇ facial expressions
  - ◇ contrast between what we think has happened and what has actually happened (particularly the scary dog on p3 vs the real dog on p4), including the different reactions of the animals
  - ◇ the role of the illustration elements that stay the same in both scenarios, eg the couch, pillows, lamp, ball and bone
  - ◇ the inclusion of the mouse, even before it's mentioned
  - ◇ how the illustrations create the build-up of the action
- Ask the children to continue the story by thinking up some more call-and-response questions and answers, based around what they think happens next. Did the mouse come out to say hi?

### **Post Reading Questions:**

- What do you think this story was about?
- How did this story make you feel?
- Did the way that you felt change as the story went on – and particularly when it finished? Remind the students about the 'scary dog' at the beginning. Was he really scary?
- Can you remember a time when how you imagined something would be like wasn't how it ended up being at all? For example:
  - ◇ Your first day at school
  - ◇ Patting a dog, cat, horse etc for the first time
  - ◇ Meeting someone new
  - ◇ Going on a train or plane for the first time.