

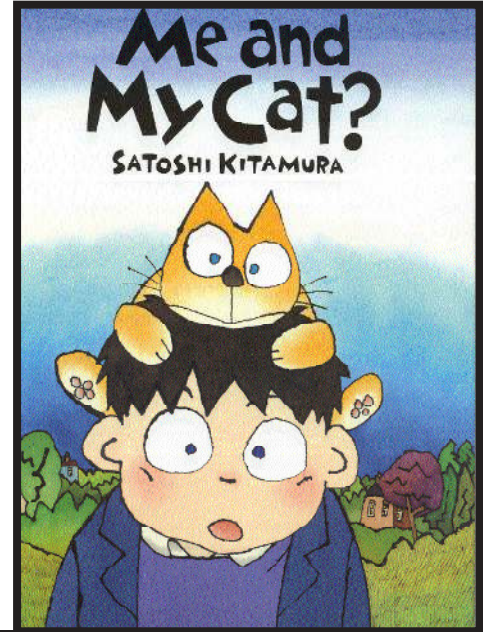
BOOKPALS STORYLINE PRESENTS:

"ME AND MY CAT"

By Satoshi Kitamura

Watch online video of actor *Elijah Wood* reading this story at <http://www.storylineonline.net>

Late one night Nicholas sees a witch enter his bedroom and hears her say some magic words. Then the witch leaves without even saying goodbye. When he wakes up the next morning, it doesn't take him long to realize something very strange is going on -especially when he pulls at his whiskers and watches himself go off to school. Whiskers? How confusing! That nasty witch cast the old switcheroo spell on him, and Nicholas has swapped bodies.



RELATED ACTIVITIES

1. It is curious that the author put the first page of the story before the title page. What do you think about that? Why do you think the author did that? Discuss your thoughts with someone.

2. List the things Nicholas could do as a cat that he couldn't do as a boy. Discuss your list with a friend.

3. Recall from the story the events and make a list of all the messes that Nicholas, as a cat, caused to happen.

- Now, think about a time in your life when you created a mess.

- Tell or write about this experience.

- Make an illustration of your mess.

4. One of the three mean-looking cats

told Nicholas, as a cat, "No, go away! It's our wall." Nicholas, as the cat, tried to tell the three mean-looking cats, "I think the wall belongs to every-----"?

What do you think about that? Discuss your ideas with a partner.

5. The word "brandished" was used more than once by the author.

- Find and write the sentences in the story with the word "brandished."

- Discuss why, in your opinion, the word was a good choice by the author to describe the action in the story.

6. When Leonardo, as a boy, returns home from school he has some interesting experiences. Describe or write about these experiences.

MORE ACTIVITIES

1. Think about what it must have been like for Nicholas as a cat roaming around the neighborhood.

- What thoughts did he have?
- How did he feel?
- What did he see?

2. List the activities that are typical for a cat. Now, list the activities that Leonardo, as a boy, experiences. Compare your lists.

3. **Super Challenge Activity:** Imagine yourself as one of your pets. Describe what you would see and do if you walked around your neighborhood as that animal.

4. Write a Haiku about a cat.

A *Haiku* is a form of Japanese poetry which looks simple, but is really very structured with rules for the way you write it. In English, Haiku consists of 17 syllables, which are arranged in three lines.

Here's the recipe:

- Line 1: 5 syllables
- Line 2: 7 syllables
- Line 3: 5 syllables

Here's an example:

Spring goes, summer comes
With the warm heat from the sun
Swimming, picnics fun!

Other topics you might enjoy if you liked "Me and My Cat?":

- Magic
- Spells
- Pets
- Animals

ABOUT THE READER

Acting professionally from a very young age, Iowa-born **Elijah Wood** may be recognized the world over for his work in the *Lord of the Rings* films, but has also impressed audiences in such films as *Back to the Future II*, *Internal Affairs*, *The Good Son*, *Flipper*, *Avalon*, *The Ice Storm*, and *The Faculty*. A music video veteran (Paula Abdul's *Forever Your Girl*, working with director David Fincher), Elijah formed the Simian Records music label in 2005. His work hosting the Discovery Kids Channel special *Saving a Species: The Great Penguin Rescue* earned him a Daytime Emmy nomination, and 2009 saw him earn the San Francisco International Film Festival's Midnight Award, which



recognized him as an actor who has made "outstanding contributions to independent and Hollywood cinema, and who brings striking intelligence, exemplary talent and extraordinary depth of character to his roles." and a household hobbit.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Satoshi Kitamura is the creator of many popular books for children, including *Sheep in Wolves' Clothing*, which School Library Journal praised in a starred review. He lives in London, England.

Other books by Satoshi Kitamura:

- "Sheep in Wolves' Clothing"
- "Goldfish Hide-And-Seek"
- "The Grandad Tree"
- "Under the Moon and Over the Sea"
- "From Acorn to Zoo"
- "Mielke's Farm"
- "Fernando Furioso"

"Me and My Cat?" published by Farrar Straus & Giroux, 2000

Content developed by JAN POWELL, teacher at Seeds Elementary School, UCLA,
and ELLEN NATHAN, BookPALS National Program Director.

Storyline is brought to you by the Screen Actors Guild Foundation.

Learn more about the Storyline Online program at <http://www.storylineonline.net>