

It's All the Cat's Fault

A Guide for Teachers and Parents



Written by Anushka Ravishankar
Illustrated by Priya Kuriyan

THEMES

Family & Friends

SEL

Humor & Imagination

Cause & Effect

Humor & Imagination

Story Discussion Guide

- Understand the impact of homelessness on children.
- Recognize global housing insecurity and its effect on education. Reflect on social exclusion and bullying due to poverty.
- Cultivate empathy and respect for all peers.
- Inspire strength and hope in children facing hardship.

LESSON PLAN

- Before Reading: Discuss creative excuses.
- During Reading: Track cause-and-effect and predictions.
- After Reading: Explore responsibility and alternative choices.
- Activities: Sequencing, role-play, silly excuses, responsibility charts.

Full Lesson Plan

Warm-Up Questions :

- Have you ever forgotten something important?
- Have you ever given a funny excuse?
- Why do people make excuses?

During Reading:

- Why does the boy want to rescue the cat?
- Predict what might happen next.
- What happened next?
- How does one event cause another?

After Reading:

- Which part was the funniest?
- Was the boy telling the truth or exaggerating?
- Why is responsibility important?
- Is it okay to make silly excuses sometimes?
- How do our actions affect others?

Activities:

1. Cause-and-Effect Story Chain Children arrange story events in sequence.
2. Create Your Own Silly Excuse Write or draw a playful excuse using 3 chain-reaction events.
3. Role-Play: Teacher & Student Act out the excuse scene with sound effects.
4. Responsibility Reflection Chart Children write one responsible action they will take.
5. Animal Antics Puppets Create puppets of the cat, monkey, dog, and baby to retell the story.
6. Chain Reaction STEAM Experiment Build a simple domino chain to visualize cause-and-effect

OUTCOME

- Identify the sequence of events and recognize cause-and-effect.
- Understand how actions can affect others.
- Retell the story in sequence.
- Use imagination to create humorous excuses.
- Express feelings and reactions to unexpected events.
- Reflect on responsibility and truthfulness.
- Appreciate that children everywhere make creative excuses.

Applicable SDGs:

- SDG 4 – Quality Education

SDG Explanation

- SDG 3: The story promotes emotional health in young children by normalizing fear and offering supportive ways to manage it.
- SDG 4: Through the teacher character, the story reinforces the role of schools and caregivers in helping children express and manage emotions constructively.
- SDG 10

Expected Outcomes

Children will come away with the understanding that fears are a part of life, and that support from family, friends, or teachers can help them cope. The story fosters a compassionate mindset and emotional literacy from an early age—critical building blocks for lifelong well-being and empathy.

Horizontal alignment

5-8 years

Who Stole Bhaiyya's Smile

Ok Om Bok Festival

Get Well Soon – caring for the elderly

Angmo's Yak – caring for an animal

Vertical Alignment

3-5 years

A Very Important Tree - caring for the environment

3-5 years Lebo & Gogo – caring for a grandparent

8-10 years

My brother Charlie – caring for a sibling

Bye-Bye Plastic Bags – caring for nature

ABOUT ZAMASAMA

Zamasama is a nonprofit platform that brings together stories from around the world to help children discover that beneath our differences—of culture, language, or belief—we share the same hopes, joys, and dreams. Today's children are tomorrow's citizens, and the responsibility of building a more peaceful, tolerant, and empathetic world lies with them. That's why it's vital to instill these values early—through stories that help them rise above the biases they inherit, and see diversity as a strength that unites us all.