

KATIE LOVES THE KITTENS

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by John Himmelman

Ages: 3-6; Grades: PreK-1

Running time: 8 minutes

Themes: Animals, Feelings, Consideration, Family, Humor

SUMMARY

Katie, a fun loving dog, can hardly believe her good luck when her owner, Sara Ann, brings home three new kittens. They look so cute and cuddly that Katie cannot wait to play with them. But her enthusiasm scares the kittens and she gets scolded by Sara Ann. Katie tries to control herself, but she just can't help howling in excitement and chasing the kittens. Nobody seems to understand that she just wants to play. Finally, Katie falls asleep despair. When she awakes, she finds the three kittens snuggled close by her side. "Arooooo!" she howls with joy.

OBJECTIVES

- Students will create a graph showing how many pets they have.
- Students will make text-to-self connections with the characters.
- Students will discuss different forms of communication.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Teach students how to do a survey about how many pets their classmates have. Since most students will be pre-literate, create a chart that students use can use easily. For example, list every student's name in the first column. Then, make four more columns. In the first, put the number zero, then one, two, etc. Use pictures to make the chart more readable. Have students ask each child in the class how many pets they have. For each pet, the students should make a check mark in the appropriate column. Then, teach the students how to com-

pile the data by counting the check marks in each column. Create a class bar graph entitled, "Pets in Our Class".

Discuss communication with students. Guiding questions:

- How do humans communicate with each other?
- How do humans communicate with animals?
- How do animals communicate with each other?
- How do animals communicate with humans?

Scribe students' answers on chart paper. Use pictures or sketches to augment their answers. Then, supply students with old magazines. Have them cut out pictures of humans and animals communicating. Make a chart of different emotions, such as, happiness, loneliness, sadness, hunger, anger, and fear. Have students paste their cut-out photographs in the appropriate sections of the chart. Tell students to watch the movie and look for hints from the animals' and humans' behavior indicating what they are trying to communicate to each other.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Introduce text-to-self connections. Tell students that a text-to-self connection is when you can relate to one of the characters or events in a book or movie. Give students some examples of a way that you can relate to one of the characters in *Katie Loves the Kittens*. Show students hand motions to go along with making a text-to-self connection. Have them hold their hands up like a book, then point to themselves, then clasp their hands together to show a connection. Then, ask students to make their own text-to-self connections with the movie. Invite students to share their connections with each other. Close by having students draw a picture of their connection and complete the sentence: "I connect to _____ because..."

Role-play with students different ways to communicate emotions. First, identify different emotions and ask students to

share experiences of excitement, disappointment, sadness, anger, jealousy, joy, etc. Then, choose different students to act out different situations. Some ideas are:

- A new baby in the home
- Sharing toys or other possessions
- Getting a new pet
- Seeing someone you love

Model a role-play of one of these situations with a few of the students. Suggest ways for them to be realistic and make strong decisions when dealing with these emotions. When the role-play is over, ask the other students for feedback. What responses did students give that were positive? How could the students have improved their responses? Allow three to four students to share before moving on to the next role-play.

Discuss caring for a pet with students. Guiding questions:

- What do pets need from their people caretakers?
- What different things do different pets need?
- What are some things that all pets need?

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