**Dog vs. Cat**

**AUTHOR:** Chris Gall  
**ILLUSTRATOR:** Chris Gall  
**PUBLISHER:** Little, Brown and Company  
**COPYRIGHT:** 2014  
**ART MEDIUM:** Colored pencil and digital drawing tablet.  
**GENRE:** Humor, Fantasy  
**LIFE SKILLS:** Friendship, Resourcefulness, Effort, Cooperation, Problem Solving

**SYNOPSIS:**

On the same day, Mr. and Mrs. Button each bring home a pet - a dog and a cat. Sharing one space is difficult, but they soon discover they need each other’s help with another new “pet”.

**BOOKTALK:**

Have you ever heard of the phrase, “They fight like cats and dogs?” Well, in this book, you can find out just how cats and dogs fight, and it isn’t how you think.

Which makes a better pet, a dog or a cat? When a dog and a cat both are brought into a home on the same day, they agree to get along. But they are so different, can they share a room? What will happen when they decide they can no longer live together in the same room? Oh no, on top of all their problems with each other, another “pet” is now moved into the room! Now what will they do?

**AUTHOR:** Chris Gall

Chris Gall has been drawing all of his life. After winning a writing contest in school, he began writing to go along with his artwork. He lives in Arizona.

Author website: [http://www.chrisgallbooks.com/](http://www.chrisgallbooks.com/)

**Other books written by the author:**

* Dinotrux  
* Awesome Dawson  
* Dear Fish  
* There’s Nothing to Do on Mars

**ILLUSTRATOR:** see above
CHALLENGING WORDS
animal shelter
territories
privileges
satisfied
creature
screeching
situation
howling

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
1. What are some of the differences between the cat and dog that you can see from the pictures?
2. Have you ever had to share a room and had to learn to get along with a roommate? What did you do to resolve any disagreements?
3. Cat and Dog discovered that although they had differences, they had shared some good times also. What were some of the things they remembered doing together that were fun?
4. What makes Cat and Dog decide to move out? How did they work together to make a new room?
5. What do you think will happen next in the story? Will they become friends with the baby?
6. How could Cat and Dog have handled their disagreement differently?
7. How do you think the baby will change Cat and Dog’s lives?
8. If you could have a pet, which would you pick? Why?
9. Would you rather get a pet from the animal shelter or a pet store?
10. What do you think Cat wrote in the letter that it sent to Dog as a peace offering?

ACTIVITIES WITH STANDARDS:
Art:

- Design Cat and Dog’s new house. What would each of their rooms look like?

  Visual Arts K.6.2 Create art that expresses personal ideas, interests, and feelings.
Language Arts:

- Making Predictions
  Before reading the story, show students the cover and read the title. Ask them to make predictions about the story’s content, making a list to share. Discuss what information they used to make their predictions. Do they have a pet dog or cat? Have they read stories or heard that cats and dogs don’t get along? Do they know of specific things cats like that dogs don’t? After reading the story, make a check mark beside anything on the list that did happen in the story. Make comparisons to what actually happened and what they predicted.

  **K.RL.2.4 1.RL.2.4, 2.RL.2.4** Make predictions about what will happen in a story.

- Draw 3 columns on the board (or use a handout) for the students to record what happened at the beginning, the middle, and the end of the story.

  **2.RL.2.2** Recount the beginning, middle, and ending of stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures, and determine their central message, lesson, or moral.

Mathematics:

- Make a chart on the board (or use Kidspiration on the computer) to name or use pictures of different animals to sort in various ways (pets/wild animals/farm animals or habitats or skin coverings, etc.)

  **K.DA.1:** Identify, sort, and classify objects by size, number, and other attributes. Identify objects that do not belong to a particular group and explain the reasoning used.

Science:

- In the end, Dog and Cat built their own house; compare and contrast the items that they will need within the house.

  **1.4.2** Choose two animals that build shelters within their habitats. Compare the shelters in terms of the materials and tools they use and the type and purpose of shelter they provide.
• Using your sense of smell, identify items and sort them into “stinky and not” piles.

1.1.1 Use all senses as appropriate to identify the component objects and the materials from which they are made.

• Test various items for their sounds, including a dog whistle. Record the sounds and discuss the results.

3.1.1 Generate sounds using different materials, objects and techniques. Record the sounds and then discuss and share the results.

Social Studies:

• After reading the story, remind students that both Dog and Cat “wanted to be very grown-up.” What did that mean to each of them? Have the class make a chart with two columns, listing under Dog all the things Dog did that he thought were “good” and under Cat, all the things Cat did that he thought were “good”. Are there any items under Dog’s list that any dog would not like? Would any Cat like those things? Are there any items under Cat’s list that any cat would not like? Would any Dog like those things?

Discuss the fact that how we are raised sometimes makes us different from others, in how we act and what we like to do. Does that mean the other person is always wrong? Have students think of examples such as activities they like, foods they like, what they wear compared to kids in other countries, and even, like Cat and Dog, where and how they use the “bathroom.”

Role of Citizens
K.2.4, 1.2.4, 2.2.4 How to be a responsible family member or member of a group.
Respecting the differences of others.

RELATED INTERNET SITES:

Activity Sheet: Dog vs. Cat Differences