

Stanford House Classics - Beginners

THE BLACK CAT

Edgar Allan Poe

read • respond • interact



The Black Cat

Edgar Allan Poe

Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849) was born in the United States. His life isn't easy and he dies when he is young. He likes to drink and becomes mad. The book is about a man who has a black cat that follows him everywhere. He kills the cat and then his wife, and hides her body in the cellar. A frightening story that will keep you awake but one you will read with pleasure!



Stanford House

THE BLACK CAT

I was a very quiet¹ boy. I liked reading and writing. My school friends often laughed at me because I was clever². My parents said I was helpful³. I loved animals and my dog adored⁴ me. I often took it for a walk in the park and fed⁵ the ducks. I visited my grandparents every Saturday, and I helped them in the house and garden. I went to church every Sunday.
Yes, I was a perfect child!



1. **quiet:** calm, silent.
2. **clever:** intelligent.
3. **helpful:** somebody who always helps.
4. **to adore:** to love.
5. **to feed, fed:** to give food.

ACTIVITY

 **Join the opposite.**

love/adore quiet like laugh good clever helpful

dislike stupid unhelpful talkative cry bad hate

 **Write sentences like this.**

He was quiet, he wasn't talkative.

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 **Write TRUE sentences about yourself!**

I'm quiet (or talkative).

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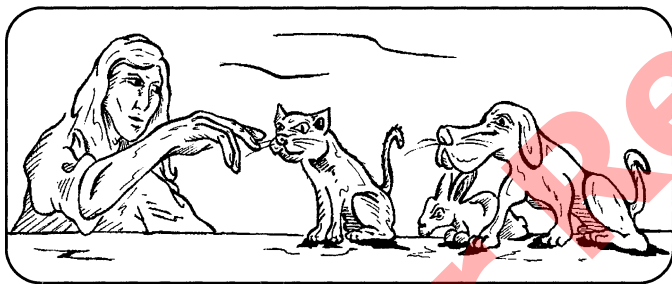
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When I was twenty I met my wife. We worked in the same office and I saw her everyday. She was a pretty girl and I loved her very much. We married young. She liked reading and writing too. She also liked animals. She filled¹ our house with every kind of animal. We had many types of birds: canaries, budgerigars², a parrot and a magpie. They made a lot of noise³.

We also had gold fish, rabbits, a beautiful dog, a small monkey⁴ that talked all the time – and a CAT! The house was like⁵ a zoo!



1. **to fill:** to make full.
2. **budgerigar:** a small parrot.
3. **noise:** sound.
4. **monkey:** small jungle animal that lives in the trees.
5. **to be like:** to be similar.

ACTIVITY

 What are the names of these animals? Put the letters into the correct order and find out! Look at the example!



ROTARP YNEMOK HFODSGHI BIRBTA

Parrot

 Where do these animals sleep?



kennel



basket



cage



bowl



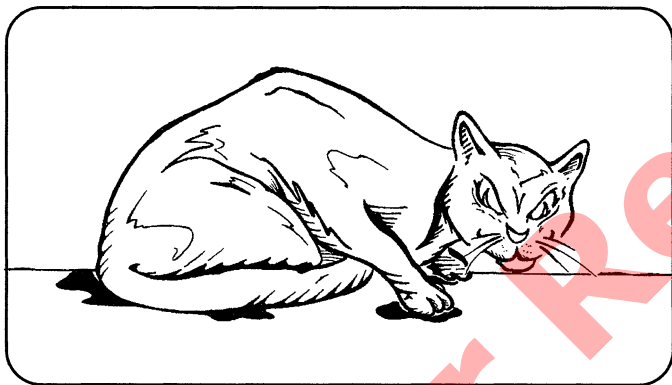
hutch



trees



My favourite pet¹ and friend was the cat. It was entirely² black. Its name was Pluto. It followed me in the house, in the sitting-room, in the bedroom and in the bathroom. Everytime I sat³ down, it jumped on my knee⁴. Every evening it went to sleep in the kitchen. In the morning it was always asleep in my bed! It was always behind me. When I went out it followed me along the street to my office and to my club. It followed me everywhere⁵!



1. **pet**: an animal that lives in the house with the family.
2. **entirely**: completely.
3. **sat**: is the past tense of 'to sit'.
4. **knee**: the centre part of the leg.
5. **everywhere**: every place.

ACTIVITY



This is what's in the house! Read the story. Draw the things into the house, in the correct room!

There's a  on the  in the sitting-room. Under the  there's a . There are  in the  and a  on the  in the kitchen. There's a  in the hall, a  in the attic, and a  in the cellar! Help!

