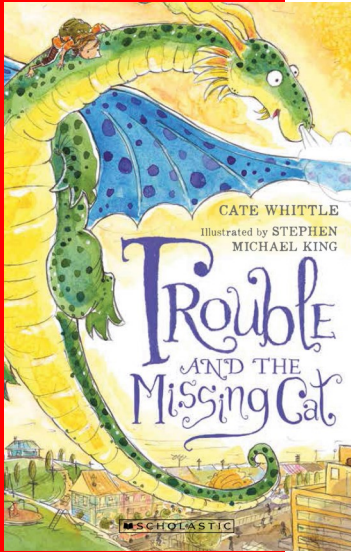


TROUBLE AND THE MISSING CAT

CATE WHITTLE | STEPHEN MICHAEL KING (Illustrator)



ISBN: 9781742990774

RRP: \$9.99

Trouble has been banned from Georgia's school after he did a Vertical Landing in the playground and broke all the asphalt. (The oval's turf also needs replacing.) He's not too happy about it, because he'll be so-o-o lonely now.

Meanwhile Georgia has taken on a detective role to help Mrs Jones find her missing cat, Tibbles. With her brother Henry also on the case as her eager assistant, and other concerns—such as school time-outs, Trouble refusing sarsaparilla drink and why toilet paper wrappers have pictures of kittens, beaches or gum leaves on them—will Georgia be able to solve the mystery? And why is Trouble acting so strangely?

STUDY NOTES

- What can we tell about Georgia's character from the first chapter of the book? What adjectives would you use to describe her?
- Imagine you are Georgia travelling to school on Trouble's back. Think about how this would be different from walking to school or being a passenger in a road vehicle. Write an account of the things you think you would see and how they would look.
- '... because you have to do these things properly if you are going to be a good detective.' (p 16) What else might Georgia need other than a notebook to be a good detective? Write a list of items. Extension activity: Have students make their own detective kit, like

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the one at <http://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Detective-Kit>.

- Imagine you are a detective and have just taken on a case. Write a story about your investigation. Make sure to give it a dramatic title like 'The Mysterious Case of Mrs Jones's Missing Cat'.
- Draw a picture of what you think Tibbles might look like if he had 'extinguishing' features?
- What are your distinguishing features? Write a list that would be helpful for a detective.
- Why can't Trouble have the real *Mona Lisa* picture? What else do students know about the real painting other than that it is in France? How would people have known about the *Mona Lisa* before the invention of photography if they could not travel to see the real thing?
- Imagine you have your own dragon that lives in a cave. What items do you think your dragon might want to decorate their cave with?
- While reading **Trouble and the Missing Cat**, did you suspect that Trouble 'cat-napped' Tibbles? Do you think there is any way that this could have been avoided?
- We learn a lot about Trouble in this book. Write a character profile that includes information about his distinguishing features, his likes and his habitat.
- What do you think Mr Frump is thinking when he looks at Georgia after reading her apology letter? Do you think it is fair that Georgia is in time-out? Why or why not? Who else might unjustly be in time-out? Why?
- Why does Trouble get angry when he is told Tibbles is fed cat food? How can we tell that he is angry and how can we tell when he calms down?
- Georgia finds the pictures on the toilet roll wrappers interesting. Why do you think toilet rolls have these images? Select an item you think has an interesting image on its packaging. As a class, discuss each student's item and why you think the particular image was used.
- What is the problem with Georgia's theory that Braedon always blinks when he tells a lie?

- Explain to students what a red herring is. What is the red herring in **Trouble and the Missing Cat**?
- From what we know about Tibbles's stay in Trouble's cave, write a story from Tibbles's perspective about what happened.

