



KIT AND CABOODLE

TEACHERS NOTES

Written and illustrated by Anna Pignataro

Published in September 2020 by Little Hare,
an imprint of Hardie Grant Children's Publishing

SYNOPSIS

Witches are good at casting spells, flying and making potions, right?

Kit is a witch, but she isn't very good at witchy things. One Halloween, a bedraggled bat named Caboodle comes tumbling through Kit's window. She tries using magic to fix his broken wing, but the results are ... unexpected.

Caboodle causes havoc in the house as he waits for his wing to heal. Kit is at her wit's end. But when Caboodle goes missing, Kit realises just how special he is to her.

A beautiful mix of magic and humour, and a celebration of true friendship.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Anna Pignataro has created more than sixty books for children. Her first picture book won the Crichton Award for illustration, and her books have continued to receive award recognition, including multiple commendations from the Children's Book Council of Australia. Anna's books have also featured on children's television programs such as Play School. Many of her picture books have had significant international success – they are published in a wide range of countries and enjoyed in twelve different languages. Through her work, Anna hopes to encourage children to use their imagination, to be inspired by the natural world and to always believe that anything is possible. Anna lives with her husband and daughter near the beach in Melbourne, Australia.





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ILLUSTRATION STYLE

The illustrations in this book were achieved through a combination of pencil, charcoal, pen and ink. The style is dark and whimsical, and reinforces the magical world Kit and Caboodle occupy.

THEMES

Kit and Caboodle is a story about a lonely witch and a lost bat. They spend lots of time together, helping each other in various ways: Caboodle helps Kit feel less lonely, Kit helps Caboodle fix his wing. And although she might have found him a little annoying at first, Kit soon finds that she cares very deeply for Caboodle. When he goes missing Kit is worried – so she sets out to find him, bravely flying through a scary storm.

Some themes you might like to look out for and discuss with your students include:

- Friendship
- Loneliness
- Kindness & compassion
- Bravery
- Empathy
- Personal growth



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BEFORE READING

Ask students to look closely at the cover illustration.

1. What do they think *Kit and Caboodle* might be about?
2. What kind of book do they think this might be? Funny? Sad? Scary?
3. Do they think Kit and Caboodle are friends or enemies?
4. What kind of personalities do students think Kit and Caboodle might have?

Read the blurb.

1. Were students expecting this to be the book's storyline after their cover predictions?
2. Kit is a witch! Ask students if they think witches are scary. Can they think of a good witch?



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WHILE READING

1. "Once upon a time, not so long ago, there was a witch called Kit. Kit lived all alone in a big old house. The wind, the trees, the moon and the stars were her only companions." Ask students how they think Kit feels. Would she be lonely or happy all by herself?
2. Caboodle is worried about his wing. Kit tries to fix it, but it takes a few spells to get it right. How do you think Caboodle feels? What kinds of wings does he get before Kit finds the right ones?
3. There's lots of things going into Kit's cauldron. Ask students to look closely at the illustration – what ingredients can they see?
4. Caboodle doesn't want to sleep at night! He stays up and plays the banjo instead. Ask students if they know what "nocturnal" means.
5. There's lots of food on Kit's table! What are some of the things students can see? Ask them what their favorite food is.
6. "At last, Caboodle's wing was better – but his flying was still wobbly. 'I can fix that,' said Kit." It looks like Caboodle will be able to fly again soon. What do students think will happen next? Will he stay with Kit or fly away?
7. Kit is very brave – she flies through a storm to find Caboodle. Together, they realise they can fly much better than they can alone. Ask students what they think Kit and Caboodle might do next?