

## Cats Do Not Like Birthdays

Author/Illustrator:  
Nicki Greenberg

Publisher:  
Affirm Press

ISBN: 9781925972283

### Synopsis

Presents! Games! Cake! Everyone loves a party, right?

Well, not everyone. And definitely not Kit.

THE CHAOS.

THE CHILDREN.

THE CHASEY!

It's more than a cat can bear! All Kit wants is a quiet place to hide away from the noise. And maybe he's not the only one . . .

A shout-out (whisper) to the not-so-loud, with treats for every kind of party guest.

### Author Bio

Nicki Greenberg is a writer and illustrator based in Melbourne, Australia. Her first books, The Digits series, were published when she was fifteen years old. They sold more than 380,000 copies in Australia and New Zealand.

When Nicki was seventeen, two big things happened to her. She started drawing comics. And she read *The Great Gatsby* for the first time.

Eight years and lots of comics later, those two big things came together when she embarked on the mad venture of adapting *The Great Gatsby* in graphic form.

This labour of love took her six years, while she worked as a lawyer to support her scribbling habit.

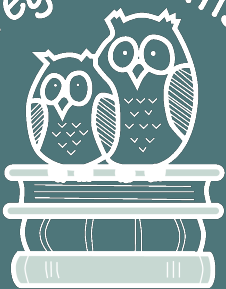
The result was a very unusual book.

Nicki's innovative adaptation of *Gatsby* was widely acclaimed and was selected as a White Raven at the Bologna Book Fair.

She then went on to tackle *Hamlet* in a lavish 425-page "staging on the page". *Hamlet* was joint winner of the 2011 Children's Book Council of Australia's Picture Book of the Year award.

Nicki's elder daughter was born one month after she finished drawing the final page of *Hamlet*, and her younger daughter two years later. Inspired by their delight in picture books, Nicki returned to working in this form. Her recent picture books include *The Naughtiest Reindeer*, *Monkey Red*, *Monkey Blue* and *BOM! Went the Bear*. She has also written and illustrated non-fiction for children, and her book, *It's True! Squids Suck!* was shortlisted for the 2006 Aventis Prize for Science Books.





## Curriculum Links

### English Foundation

- ACELA1430 - Understand that texts can take many forms, can be very short (for example an exit sign) or quite long (for example an information book or a film) and that stories and informative texts have different purposes
- ACELA1439 - Recognise and generate rhyming words.
- ACELT1575 Recognise that texts are created by authors who tell stories and share experiences that may be similar or different to students' own experiences
- ACELT1783 Share feelings and thoughts about the events and characters in texts

### English Year 1

- ACELT1582 Discuss characters and events in a range of literary texts and share personal responses to these texts, making connections with students' own experiences
- ACELT1584 - Discuss features of plot, character and setting in different types of literature and explore some features of characters in different texts.
- ACELY1660 - Use comprehension strategies to build literal and inferred meaning about key events, ideas and information in texts that they listen to, view and read by drawing on growing knowledge of context, text structures and language features.

### Health & Physical Education

- ACPPS005 - Identify and describe emotional responses people may experience in different situations

## Themes

- Acceptance
- Anxiety
- Birthdays
- Friendship

## Pre Reading Question

Show the cover of *Cat's Do Not Like Birthdays* to your students, reading the name of the book out loud, and ask the following:

- The cat has a strange expression on his face. Can you identify what the cat might be feeling?
- What kind of hat is the cat wearing?
- What might that be around the cat's neck?

Now turn the cover over and show the back of the book to your students, reading out loud what the book will be about.

- Does the image of the party give you more clues about why the cat is wearing a hat on the front cover image?

Read the Book.

The text is rhyming. Some students may identify (and call out) this straight away. When you read the book, pause just before rhyming word, to make it more obvious, and encourage the students to predict what that word might be.

Endpapers

After reading the book, look at the endpapers.

How are the endpapers different at the front and the back of the book? How do the endpapers reflect what has happened to the cat in the story?

### Health and Physical Education:

Ask the class how they feel about going to parties.

Are they Happy? Excited? Nervous? Anxious? Does everyone feel the same thing?

Look at some of the illustrations in the book. Identify the children having fun. Identify the one child who perhaps isn't having so much fun.

Talk about the fact that it is OK for different people to have different feelings about things.

If you are not one of the happy/excited children at a party, what could you do to make yourself feel better?

What does the girl in the story do?

If you are having fun at the party, but see someone who isn't, what could you do for them?

