



# The Cat Wants to Play

Level C / 31 words / fiction

High frequency words:

*no, play, said, the, to, will*

## Before reading

- Look at the cover and read the title.
- Possible discussion questions: "Who is on the cover? What do you think is happening between the cat and the mouse?"

## Look through all the pictures

- Discuss what's happening in each picture. Ask students to name the animals on each page.
- Point out the quotation marks on either side of the word "no" on each page. Ask the students what they mean.
- Duck says, "No, no, no." Notice that the comma means to pause when reading.

## Reading the text

- Have the children read the text independently. Encourage them to read it again if they finish before the others in the group.
- While they're reading, listen to each student individually and prompt them to use meaning, structure, and letter cues at difficulty. Praise the successful use of reading cues.
- Make sure the children can match (with their finger) or track (with their eyes) each word of the text.

## After reading

- Discuss the meaning, structure, and letter cues that you noticed students using correctly at difficulty.

• **Literal comprehension:** The answers are in the text. Ask, "How do the other animals answer when the cat wants to play?" Have students read the pages that support their answers.

• **Inferential comprehension:** The answers are in your head. Ask, "Why do you think the animals don't want to play with the cat?"

## Word work

- Have the students locate the high-frequency words in the text and practice writing them.
- Have the students locate the animal words: *mouse, spider, bird, duck, and frog*. Have students use beginning letters and sounds to try new words.

## Rereading for fluency

- Have the children read the story again, either independently or with a partner.
- Use this opportunity to listen to each child and again prompt for strategy use at difficulty.

## Writing activity

- Have the students write the sentence: "The cat wants to play." Then have them draw a picture that corresponds to what they have written. Encourage the use of proper punctuation and independent attempts to spell words correctly.

### FUN FACT

Cats are the most popular house pets.  
They have been kept as pets for over 10,000 years.

**Teaching Points:** Introducing new words; Cross-checking difficult words with pictures and story meaning; Rereading; Introducing punctuation (commas, quotation marks); Introducing animal words.