Late one night Nicholas sees a witch enter his bedroom and hears her say some magic words. Then the witch leaves without even saying goodbye. When he wakes up the next morning, it doesn’t take him long to realize something very strange is going on—especially when he pulls at his whiskers and watches himself go off to school. Whiskers? How confusing! That nasty witch cast the old switcheroo spell on him, and Nicholas has swapped bodies.

**RELATED ACTIVITIES**

1. It is curious that the author put the first page of the story before the title page. What do you think about that? Why do you think the author did that? Discuss your thoughts with someone.

2. List the things Nicholas could do as a cat that he couldn’t do as a boy. Discuss your list with a friend.

3. Recall from the story the events and make a list of all the messes that Nicholas, as a cat, caused to happen.

   • Now, think about a time in your life when you created a mess.
   • Tell or write about this experience.
   • Make an illustration of your mess.

4. One of the three mean-looking cats told Nicholas, as a cat, “No, go away! It’s our wall.” Nicholas, as the cat, tried to tell the three mean-looking cats, “I think the wall belongs to every_____”?

   What do you think about that? Discuss your ideas with a partner.

5. The word “brandished” was used more than once by the author.

   • Find and write the sentences in the story with the word “brandished.”
   • Discuss why, in your opinion, the word was a good choice by the author to describe the action in the story.

6. When Leonardo, as a boy, returns home from school he has some interesting experiences. Describe or write about these experiences.
MORE ACTIVITIES

1. Think about what it must have been like for Nicholas as a cat roaming around the neighborhood.
   
   - What thoughts did he have?
   - How did he feel?
   - What did he see?

2. List the activities that are typical for a cat. Now, list the activities that Leonardo, as a boy, experiences. Compare your lists.

3. Super Challenge Activity: Imagine yourself as one of your pets. Describe what you would see and do if you walked around your neighborhood as that animal.

4. Write a Haiku about a cat.

A Haiku is a form of Japanese poetry which looks simple, but is really very structured with rules for the way you write it. In English, Haiku consists of 17 syllables, which are arranged in three lines.

Here's the recipe:
   
   Line 1: 5 syllables
   Line 2: 7 syllables
   Line 3: 5 syllables

Here's an example:

   Spring goes, summer comes
   With the warm heat from the sun
   Swimming, picnics fun!

Other topics you might enjoy if you liked "Me and My Cat?:"

   - Magic
   - Spells
   - Pets
   - Animals

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Satoshi Kitamura is the creator of many popular books for children, including Sheep in Wolves’ Clothing, which School Library Journal praised in a starred review. He lives in London, England.

Other books by Satoshi Kitamura:

   “Sheep in Wolves’ Clothing”
   “Goldfish Hide-And-Seek”
   “The Grandad Tree”
   “Under the Moon and Over the Sea”
   “From Acorn to Zoo”
   “Mielke’s Farm”
   “Fernando Furioso”

ABOUT THE READER

Elijah Wood was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He has been acting since he was a young boy. He has done many films including “Back to the Future II,” “Internal Affairs,” “The Good Son,” “Flipper” and “Avalon”. But “Lord of the Rings” is the movie that launched Elijah into a major star.

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