

Itty Bitty Kitty

AUTHOR

MADDY MARA

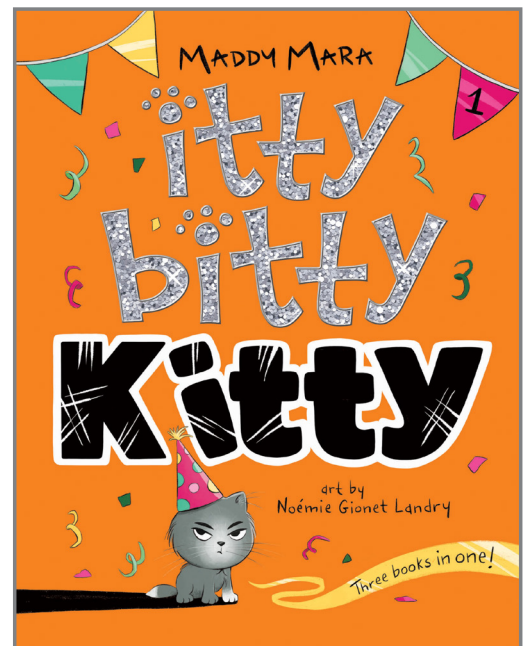
ILLUSTRATOR

NOÉMIE GIONET LANDRY

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower to Mid Primary



SYNOPSIS

Itty Bitty Kitty LOVES empty boxes, string and sleeping on clean washing. She HATES being called cute. She is almost a tiger, after all!

She may still be a kitten, but Itty Bitty is ready to take on the world. And she knows all the Cat Laws. So when a family want to make Itty Bitty their pet, she is NOT HAPPY. Cats choose their humans, not the other way around! This is the very first Cat Law.

Join Itty Bitty on three epic adventures. Will she stick to the rules? Or will this kitty make up her own rules for life?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Maddy Mara is the pen name of Melbourne-based creative duo Hilary Rogers and Meredith Badger. Hilary and Meredith have been collaborating on children's books for nearly two decades. Hilary is an author and former publishing director; Meredith is the author of countless books for kids and young adults, and teaches English as a foreign language. Maddy Mara is the melding of their respective daughters' names.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Noémie grew up in a small coastal town of New-Brunswick, Canada, surrounded by the ocean. Growing up, she told everyone she wanted to become either a doctor, or a children's book illustrator. Midway through med school, she decided she would do both. She now shares her time between the hospital (where she works as a rheumatologist) and her home studio, where she sketches, draws and paints surrounded by her wife, son, two tiny Chihuahuas and two cats. She works both digitally and traditionally, creating engaging illustrations, usually with a funny twist!

THEMES

- Family
- Bravery
- Showing kindness

STUDY NOTES**BEFORE READING**

- Have a look at the front cover. What do you think this book will be about?
- Why do you think the book is called *Itty Bitty Kitty*? What does 'Itty Bitty' mean? Is this kitten really big or really small?
- Describe the character (Itty Bitty) on the cover. How do you think she is feeling in this picture? Why might she be wearing a hat like this?
- Is this the type of book you'd like to read usually?

COMPREHENSION**General**

- Itty Bitty joins a new family. What are Itty Bitty's names for everyone in the family?
- At the start of the book, Itty Bitty shows us the different body parts of a cat. Can you name the different parts of a cat? What are these body parts used for?
- Itty Bitty has a very helpful Meow Guide. What do all the different meows mean?
- What is the name of the cat who helps Itty Bitty? Where does this cat live?
- What food does Itty Bitty eat?
- What wild animal does Itty Bitty compare herself to? Do you think Itty Bitty looks like this animal?
- In each of these stories, Itty Bitty shows us her Cat Laws. Are the Cat Laws the same at the start and end of each story?

Story One

- Itty Bitty is put into a box and brought to a house. Why is Itty Bitty here? Where did Itty Bitty live before this?
- Where does Itty Bitty hide when she is scared?
- Ginger helps Itty Bitty show the family that she is a brave kitten. What does Itty Bitty do to show her bravery?

Story Two

- Itty Bitty thinks that the storm means that the Great Cat in the Sky is angry. What is actually happening in the sky during a storm?
- Itty Bitty hides in the plant in the bathroom. Why does she like this spot?

Story Three

- The family are preparing lots of balloons, presents and food in the house. What are they preparing for? What kind of party is this?
- There is a lot of smoke in the kitchen. What has happened to Mum's food? What new word does Itty Bitty learn in this moment?
- Leo and his guests are passing around a parcel. What game are they playing? Have you played pass-the-parcel before?
- What does Itty Bitty do to stop the kids fighting over the presents?

LITERACY

- When Leo first sees Itty Bitty, he describes her as 'small and cute'. These are adjectives. Can you think of any other adjectives to describe Itty Bitty?
- Can you think of any adjectives to describe other characters like Leo, the Tail Puller, Dad Human or Mum Human?
- Itty Bitty uses lots of different cat terms throughout the book, such as 'fierce yowling', 'stay back hissing' and 'paws of fury'. Discuss each of these terms and identify whether they contain verbs, adjectives, nouns, or a combination of these. Now look for other cat terms in the book and repeat the exercise.

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Sometimes Itty Bitty comes across scary things like tail pullers, storms and parties. Describe how Itty Bitty looks in these moments. How do you feel when Itty Bitty is scared?

- How does Itty Bitty show that she is angry or upset? What kinds of things make Itty Bitty angry?
- When the baby is scared during the storm, Itty Bitty does some joy purring to help the baby feel safe. What types of things can you say to someone if they feel scared?

AFTER READING

- Which was your favourite Itty Bitty story in this book? Why?
- Itty has a brand-new family. Who is in your family?
- Do you have any pets at home? Do they act like Itty Bitty?
- Is there anything you are scared of? How do your family and friends help you when you are scared?
- Would you recommend this book to a friend?
- Do you have a pet? Draw what your pet looks like. Or if you don't have a pet, you might like to draw your dream pet or favourite animal instead.