

Itty Bitty Kitty 2

AUTHOR

MADDY MARA

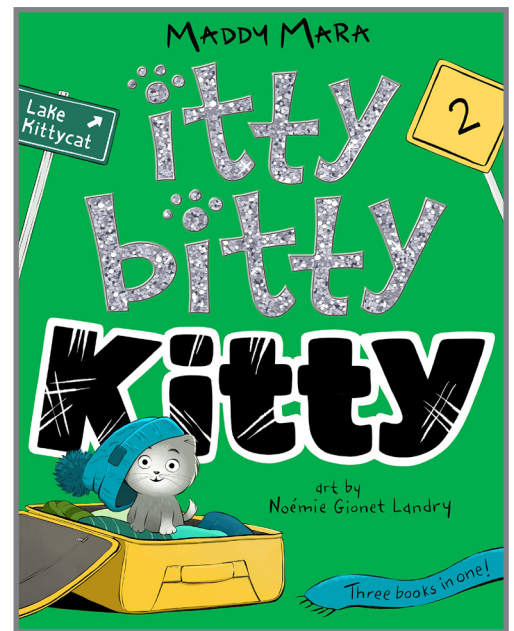
ILLUSTRATOR

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SYNOPSIS

Itty Bitty Kitty LOVES pouncing, lap naps and hiding in suitcases. 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.

But her family doesn't seem to know anything. They think she should make friends with puppies! And go on trips! What's a cat to do?

Join Itty Bitty on three new 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

- Friendship
- New experiences
- 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?
- Have you read the first *Itty Bitty Kitty* stories? If so, what do you hope will be in this book?
- Are you a cat-lover or dog-lover or both?

WHILE READING**Comprehension—Story 1**

- Itty Bitty loves the sound of 'Spring Cleaning'. What does Itty Bitty think that spring cleaning means? What does spring cleaning actually mean?
- Itty Bitty takes many naps. Can you describe all the places where Itty Bitty naps? Which is her favourite napping spot?
- What makes a bed 'boring', according to Itty Bitty?
- Mum is cleaning with a feather duster. What does Itty Bitty think Mum is doing?
- Mum has a 'big grey monster'! What is the big grey monster?
- Describe all the ways in which Itty Bitty helps Mum with her spring cleaning. How does Mum respond to Itty Bitty's help?
- Itty Bitty is excited about her surprise. Ginger tells Itty Bitty what the surprise will be. What does Ginger tell Itty Bitty? How does Itty Bitty respond? What does the surprise end up being?
- Look at the Cat Law at the end of the story. How has it changed since the beginning of the story? What does this tell us about Itty Bitty?

Comprehension—Story 2

- What are the 'sharp things' that Mum puts on the table? What does Itty Bitty think about these sharp things?
- Describe the correct way of eating, according to Itty Bitty.
- Itty Bitty says that you cannot trust dogs. Can you list all her reasons why? What do you think of this?
- Itty Bitty tells us that Bruno is big and has a waggy tail. Can you find other descriptions of Bruno?
- How does Bruno help Itty Bitty in the kitchen?
- Itty Bitty does a 'slow paw lick' when she's speaking to Dad. Why does she do this?
- What game does Itty Bitty play with Bruno? Does she enjoy playing with Bruno?
- How does Itty Bitty know that Leo still loves her the most?
- Look at the Cat Law at the end of the story. How has it changed since the beginning of the story? What does this tell us about Itty Bitty?

Comprehension—Story 3

- Itty Bitty sees Leo opening a 'big box on little wheels'. Do you know the name for this?
- Can you describe all the clothes that Leo puts in his suitcase? What else might you pack if you're going on holiday?
- Where are the family going on holiday?
- Why doesn't Itty Bitty want to go on holiday too?
- Itty Bitty spots a box. What does the box smell like to Itty Bitty?
 - Later on, Itty Bitty describes the box as 'cat jail'. Why does she describe the box like this? How does Itty Bitty feel about being inside the box?
- What is the 'magic sound' that Itty Bitty hears?
- Leo gets car-sick while they're travelling. What does Itty Bitty think is happening to Leo?
- Why does Itty Bitty get 'a feeling' when she is in the grass beside the car?
- Why is the tabby cat happy to stay in her cat box?
- What does Itty Bitty learn about holidays from the tabby cat?
- How does Leo help Itty Bitty feel at ease in the car?

- Look at the Cat Law at the end of the story. How has it changed since the beginning of the story? What does this tell us about Itty Bitty?

AFTER READING

Literacy and Language

- In Story 2, Itty Bitty pounces on the big white cloth that Mum places on the table. Pounce is a verb. Can you find other verbs in this story?
 - As a class, have a discussion about what each verb means. Extend this activity by asking students to say a sentence using one of these verbs. It can be an Itty Bitty Kitty-related sentence!
- Story 3 starts with a hat. It is a 'woolly', 'blue' and 'fluffy' hat. These are adjectives. As a class, have a discussion about how adjectives help us to better imagine an object, person or place. Can they find other adjectives in the story?
- In Story 3, Itty Bitty yowls while she's in the cat box. What does the word 'yowl' mean? Are there other words that could describe Itty Bitty in this moment?
- Itty Bitty describes humans as having 'fur'. What does Itty Bitty mean by 'fur'? Itty Bitty also describes Ami as having 'dots on her nose'. What is another name for these dots?
- Leo and Itty Bitty cannot communicate through English language. This sometimes means that they do not understand each other. But Leo and Itty Bitty communicate through other ways. Can you describe the ways that they communicate with each other?
- Itty Bitty can communicate a little bit with Bruno the puppy. Why does Itty Bitty introduce herself to Bruno, even though she is unsure of him? How does Bruno respond?
 - What is your first impression of Bruno?
- Do you have a pet? Draw your pet on a blank piece of paper. If you don't have a pet, you might like to draw your dream pet or an imaginary pet instead.
 - Write a short story starring your pet/imaginary pet. Remember that your story needs a beginning, middle and an end. You will need to introduce your main character, have an exciting event, and end by showing what the main character has learned from this event. If a story feels too difficult, describe your pet in a sentence or two instead.

Social and Emotional Development

- In Story 1, Itty Bitty describes the smiles of her family members. How are these smiles different? Why does Itty Bitty prefer Mum's smile to the Tail-Puller's smile?
- In Story 1, Mum does the 'deepest ever sigh'. What does sighing usually mean? Why is Mum sighing so deeply in this moment?
- In Story 2, Itty Bitty says that 'cats do not need new friends'. Why does Itty Bitty say this?
 - Who are Itty Bitty's friends?
 - Does Itty Bitty change her mind about new friends by the end of the story?
- In Story 2, Itty Bitty describes a funny feeling in her heart. Why does she have this funny feeling? What might this funny feeling mean? Have you ever had a funny feeling in your heart?
- In Story 2, Bruno suddenly looks very sad. Why does Bruno look sad? Using the illustrations for clues, can you describe how he looks when he's sad compared to when he's happy?
- In the first chapter of Story 3, Itty Bitty does a 'huffy meow'. What has made her do this?

Final Reflections

- Which was your favourite Itty Bitty story in this book? Why?
- Itty has a family of four humans. Who is in your family?
- Do you have any pets at home? Do they act like Itty Bitty?
- Who are your best friends? When was the last time you made a new friend?
- Have you ever taken your pet on holiday? If you could go on holiday now, where would you go?
- Would you recommend this book to a friend?