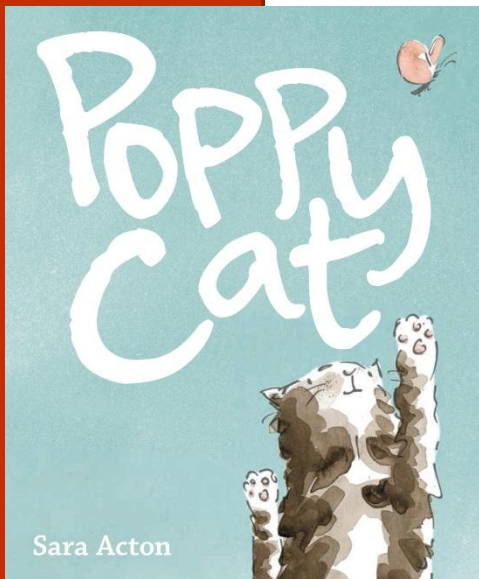


POPPY CAT

SARA ACTON



*Poppy cat is a copy cat.
She likes to do everything I do . . .*

Poppy Cat is a simple and beautiful story of a cat that likes to copy everything her owner- a playful little girl- does. And at the end of the day, they both love nothing more than curling up together on the sofa. Beautifully written and illustrated by Sara Acton, 2012 winner of the Crichton Award for New Illustrators, **Poppy Cat** is the must-have book for all cat lovers, great and small.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sara Acton was born in the Cotswolds in England and always loved drawing, especially people and other strange creatures. She studied BA Hons Fine Art, and after graduating, decided to train as an art teacher, completing a Postgraduate Diploma in Art Education at Goldsmiths in London. After teaching and practising art for many years in England and New Zealand, she moved to Australia with her family.

Sara now lives in a small seaside village near Sydney, where she enjoys writing and illustrating for children in her studio, while drinking tea and eating far too many biscuits. Her first picture book, **Ben & Duck** (Scholastic, 2011), won the Children's Book Council of Australia Crichton Award for new illustrators. Visit her website: www.saraacton.org.

TEACHER NOTES

- Have students talk about their pets (if they don't have pets, have them think about a pet they would like to have). What kind of pet do you have? What is its name? What sorts of things do you do with your pet?

- As a class, talk about pet care. What sorts of things do you need to do to make sure your pet is happy and healthy? You might organise for a volunteer from the RSPCA to come in and talk to the class about the importance of proper pet care.
- Poppy is a house cat. How are house cats similar to big cats such as tigers and lions? How are they different?
- Sara Action has used watercolours to do the illustrations for **Poppy Cat**. What do you think of the watercolour effect? How does the illustration style suit the tone of the story?
- Write a story about your own pet (or your imaginary pet) and illustrate it with watercolour pictures of your own.
- Sometimes, Poppy cat is mischievous. What does mischievous mean? Do you sometimes feel mischievous? What do you do when you're in this mood?
- Turn to the spread where Poppy cat has stepped in paint. Look at how her paw prints appear on the page. The paint on her paws acts like a stamp! Create your own paw print stamps using kitchen sponge and poster paint. First, draw the shape of your paw print on the sponge (be as wacky as you like!). Next, carefully cut around the outline of your paw. Thin out the poster paint with a little bit of water, then carefully dip one side of your paw print sponge into the paint. Place it paint-side-down on a piece of paper and press lightly, then lift the sponge gently away to reveal your print! You can make a whole class track of paw prints using different colours!
- Divide the class into pairs, with one member of each pair as the original and the other as the copycat. The copycat should follow the original around, copying everything the original does. After ten minutes, swap the roles!