



The Cat's Drum

About the story

This story is a myth in the same tradition as *Why Dog Lives With Man*, as it explains how the cat began to purr. Use a little drum as you tell the story or, even better, a real cat to stroke so the children can hear it purring.

Getting to know the story well

Watch, read aloud or tell the story to the children.

Discuss

- This is a simple introduction to an animal myth (similar to *Why Dog Lives With Man*). Ask: *Do you think these myths are true?*
- Focus on the animals. Ask: *Why did the rat steal the drum? How did the cat feel about this? Why did the cat chase the rat?*

Dance and Music

- Provide simple music and ask the children to re-create cat and rat movements to the music. Add in drum beats to move to.

Retelling the story aloud

- Make sure that the children have listened to and joined in with the story a number of times before they attempt to tell the story in groups and then with a partner.
- To help their retelling, draw a story map so that they can see visually what happened. Create some actions to use.

Watch it

Watch this story being told by Taffy Thomas on the CD-Rom.

A rat steals the cat's drum.

The cat chases the rat.

The rat throws the drum at the cat.

At that moment, the cat has its mouth open and swallows the drum.

That is why you can still hear the cat's drum today when it purrs.

From telling to writing

- When the children are confidently telling the story in their pairs, challenge them to create their own version. The sparse nature of the story leaves room for embellishment:

Long ago, when the world began, the first pussycat owned a little drum. Every day the cat played on that drum. She loved the drum so much that she carried it everywhere that she went.

One day a naughty rat stole the pussycat's drum. So the cat chased the rat. It chased the rat round and round and round...

- More confident children could write their own animal myth (perhaps how the dog got his bark or the cow her moo).