

# THE THREE-LEGGED CAT

## THE THREE-LEGGED CAT

By Margaret Mahy, illustrated by Jonathan Allen (Viking)

Themes: Pet Relationships/ Cats

Grade Level: K-3

Running Time: 7 minutes, animated

### SUMMARY

THE THREE-LEGGED CAT is the story of a cat named Tom who has only three legs, but dreams of roaming the wide world. Tom's owner, Mrs. Gimble, does not want Tom to be a prowler. She prefers him to be a more sedate cat who gives her no trouble.

Mrs. Gimble's brother Cyril, a "rascally, roving swagman" comes to visit wearing a "revolting, moulting Russian Hat" to keep his head warm

Tom gets his lifelong dream when Cyril mistakes his hat for the cat!

### OBJECTIVES

- Children will explore family relationships.
- Children will investigate different kinds of pets and the roles they play in families.
- Children will become familiar with unfamiliar words and phrases.

### BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Share the book THE THREE-LEGGED CAT with children. Then ask:

- Why do you think Mrs. Gimble wants Tom to be a quiet, sleepy kind of cat?
- How do you think Tom feels about Mrs.

Gimble?

- How do you think Mrs. Gimble feels about her brother Cyril?

Talk with children about their pets and relatives.

Ask:

- How do you care for your pets?
- What do you like to do with your pets?
- Who is your favorite relative? Why?
- What kinds of things do you do together?

Emphasize to children that different places in the world have different climates, vegetation, people with different lifestyles who speak different languages, etc. Then have children describe real places or fantasy places that they would like to visit or live in. Later, have children draw pictures of these places.

### AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Provide a variety of hats for children to try on. As children experiment with the hats, encourage them to talk about the ways the hats make them feel.

Children might feel more grown-up, wealthy, tall, elderly, etc. wearing the different hats. Have children walk around the room with the hats.

Encourage children to pay attention to the ways the hats make them walk differently, hold their heads differently, and assume different attitudes.

Help children understand that although Tom was a three-legged cat. He still managed to move about, and see the world. Have children discuss people they might know who have physical disabilities but still manage to do many different kinds of

things. Later, have children imagine that they cannot see. As children close their eyes, encourage them to describe the things they can hear, smell, touch. As you involve children in this activity, emphasize that although people may have disabilities, they are still capable of doing many, many things and experiencing life fully.

Print some of the new words and phrases in THE THREE-LEGGED CAT on the chalkboard. Read paragraphs from the book in which these words and phrases are found. See if children can identify the meanings of these words and phrases. Also, talk about other signs of a different culture introduced in the book, including houses clustered together, a cup of tea and a chitchat or "chin-wag," etc.

Other videos and films about pet relationships available from Weston Woods include:

**DANNY AND THE DINOSAUR** by Syd Hoff  
**JOHN BROWN, ROSE AND THE MID-NIGHT CAT** written by Jenny Wagner & illustrated by Ron Brooks

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**PET SHOW!** by Ezra Jack Keats

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I love three legged-cats so do you!!! 1200. Photos.Â STICKY What's your three-legged cat's name??? Our is Peggy Leggs!!!  
brettbigb35 months ago44 replies. Pamela Berger. Hi everyone my name is Pamela Berger and our cat Precious lost her leg about 4-5  
pamela.berger6181 months ago0 replies. My cat lost back leg today due to surgery. Hi everyone: Well new to this group. Let me tell the  
story, have a mesharpsteen87 months ago1 replies. Why is your kitty a tripod? I've just joined and was quite excited to see a small group  
for tripod kitties. kimmzy93 months ago11 replies. How does your cat compensate for a missing leg? My I Mrs. Gimble's peg-leg cat,  
Tom, is taken for a hat, and a ride atop her rascally roving brother's bald head, in this hilarious tale of mistaken identity. Director: Euan  
Frizzell.Â Share this Rating. Title: The Three-Legged Cat (1994). 6,4/10. Want to share IMDb's rating on your own site? See more of  
Don Gateau the Three-Legged Cat of Seborga on Facebook. Log In. or. Create New Account. See more of Don Gateau the Three-  
Legged Cat of Seborga on Facebook. Log In. Forgot account?Â Set in the Mediterranean town of Seborga, Italy, Don Gateau is the  
story of a feral, white and orange cat who, one day -- curious to see an artist painting on her balcony -- takes a leap too far. His resulting  
fall and injury solidify the bond between artist and feline. Healed by the local doctor, Don Gateau (Sir Pastry with Cream) trades his  
nomadic life for "a name and a home." Told in enchanting verse, this elegant ...tale brings a reassuring tenderness to the mishaps of life,  
in which love and acceptance have the power to transform. Although three-legged cats can do most things four-legged cats can do, they  
may need assistance in some areas. Give A Helping Hand. Provide a lift. If your cat is missing a back leg, itâ€™s likely she will need  
help getting from the floor to a higher surface. If you want your tripod cat to be able to jump from the floor to your coffee table or from the  
floor onto your lap, you may just have to pick her up if she canâ€™t do it on her own. Or you can set up objects in ascending height that  
will allow her to gradually make her way up to the top. (Cats missing a front leg may not need this kind of ass