



by Brian Lies

## EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Kitten is very brave as he runs into different works of art to catch the mouse. Describe a time when you needed to be brave to get something you wanted.
2. When visiting the first artwork, the author writes, "Some rats notice Kitten." What do the rats do when they notice Kitten? And how does this help Kitten at the end of the book?
3. The artworks featured in this book were made with many different materials. Read the descriptions of the materials used. Imagine you are holding one of the works of art in your hands. What does it feel like? Is it heavy or light? Big or small? What is the texture when you run your fingers across it? Does it have a smell?
4. Kitten looks different every time he visits a new piece of art. What do you notice about the way Kitten changes with each artwork? What are some ways Kitten looks different throughout the book?
5. Kitten chases the mouse by jumping through a poster and running through nine works of art. How did Kitten get to all the different pieces? Was it a dream, a magic portal, or something else?
6. Take a close look at each artwork. They all depict people or animals. What do you think the people and animals are doing right before Kitten jumps into their space?
7. Pick two of your favorite pieces of art. Do they look the same? How? What are some of the differences?
8. Kitten experiences different emotions throughout the story. How do Kitten's feelings change throughout the book?
9. How do the people and animals Kitten meets throughout the book react to him? Are they pleased to meet Kitten? Are they angry or confused? Or are they feeling something different?
10. At the end of the story, we know that Kitten runs back home for dinner. But what happens to the mouse? Do you think it also escaped the artwork and returned to Kitten's house? Describe what you think the mouse does after the story ends.



# EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

## Dear Diary

Imagine Kitten jumped into your life! Pick a place where you imagine seeing Kitten. This can be your classroom, your bedroom, a friend's house—anywhere you want! Then, write a diary entry or letter about Kitten jumping into your space. How would you react if you saw Kitten appear out of nowhere, chasing a mouse? Describe what you may have been doing before Kitten appeared, what happened while Kitten was there, and what you were thinking about the interaction.

## Art Adventure

Draw a map showing the route Kitten took to each artwork. What would the route look like between the art pieces? Are there roads, rivers, or mountains? Or are they all in one city, just down the block from one another?

## Cat Nap Part 2

Find a work of art not shown in the book. What would Kitten look like if he jumped into that piece of art? Create your own version of Kitten to match the artwork you found.

## My Mouse Chase

What would you look like if you chased the mouse into one of these artworks? Create a self-portrait in a style like an artwork in the book.

## Missing Mouse

When Kitten meets the dog and the bird, the mouse is nowhere to be seen. What would the mouse look like if we saw it with the dog and bird sculptures? Using clay or other materials that you find, sculpt a mouse to match the bird or dog sculpture.

## ABOUT THE BOOK



In *Cat Nap*, we follow Kitten as he chases a mouse through artwork in a museum. Kitten jumps into nine works of art, each transforming his appearance through different artistic mediums. Kitten encounters various people and animals who are excited and intrigued to meet him—some want to play with Kitten, but he is focused on catching that mouse! As he chases the mouse, however, he becomes lost. Now, he must find his way home.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



**Brian Lies** is the *New York Times* bestselling creator of *Bats at the Beach*, *Bats at the Library*, *Bats at the Ballgame*, *Bats in the Band*, and the Caldecott Honor book *The Rough Patch*. He has written and/or illustrated dozens of other acclaimed books for children. He lives with his family in a small seaside town in Massachusetts, where he tends a big and thriving garden.

Guide prepared by Julia Zak, a preschool art teacher working in the Department of Education in New York City.