

# Kitten's First Full Moon

by Kevin Henkes

Caldecott Medal Winner, 2005. Simplicity, warmth and softness all surround this pencil-drawn story of a kitten and her struggle to capture an object just out of her reach.



## Read

### Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *What do you think "full moon" means? Have you ever seen one?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder if that kitten is lost?

### During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Ask the children to try and remember as you read which animal crawled in the mitten first, second, and so on. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

### Rare Words in *Kitten's First Full Moon*:

- stretched: to extend something, lengthen and widen
- wiggled: to move side to side in small quick movements
- sprang: to quickly jump up and forward towards something
- tumbled: to fall over something and then roll over and over
- pinching: to painfully squeeze or grip something
- pond: a small still body of water
- edge: a border that is the outermost part of an object
- leaped: to jump forcefully with a long or high arc

### After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Where was the kitten sitting when the story started?
- What did the kitten think was in the sky? What really was the little bowl of milk?
- When the kitten closed her eyes, what landed on her tongue?
- How else did the kitten try and get the moon?
- How did the kitten feel when she climbed the tree?
- Why did the kitten go home? What was waiting for her?

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**Do**

## **Pencil Art**

**You will need:** white construction paper, black markers, black colored pencils and hairspray

After reading the story, talk about the book being a Caldecott Medal Winner (the Caldecott Medal annually recognizes "the most distinguished picture book for children" published in the United States, beginning with 1937 publications. The award is named for Randolph Caldecott, a nineteenth-century English illustrator, and is one of the most prestigious American children's book awards.

Have the children describe the illustrations, what they like about the pictures, how the book is monochromatic and then discuss how they are made. Hand each child a piece of white paper, black colored pencil and a black marker. Next, have the children draw a picture with the black marker. Then the children will add color and shading by using the colored pencil. Have the children use their fingers to "smudge" the pencil markings, to create a lighter gray color. Finally, spray the entire piece of paper with hairspray (to prevent the pencil from rubbing off).