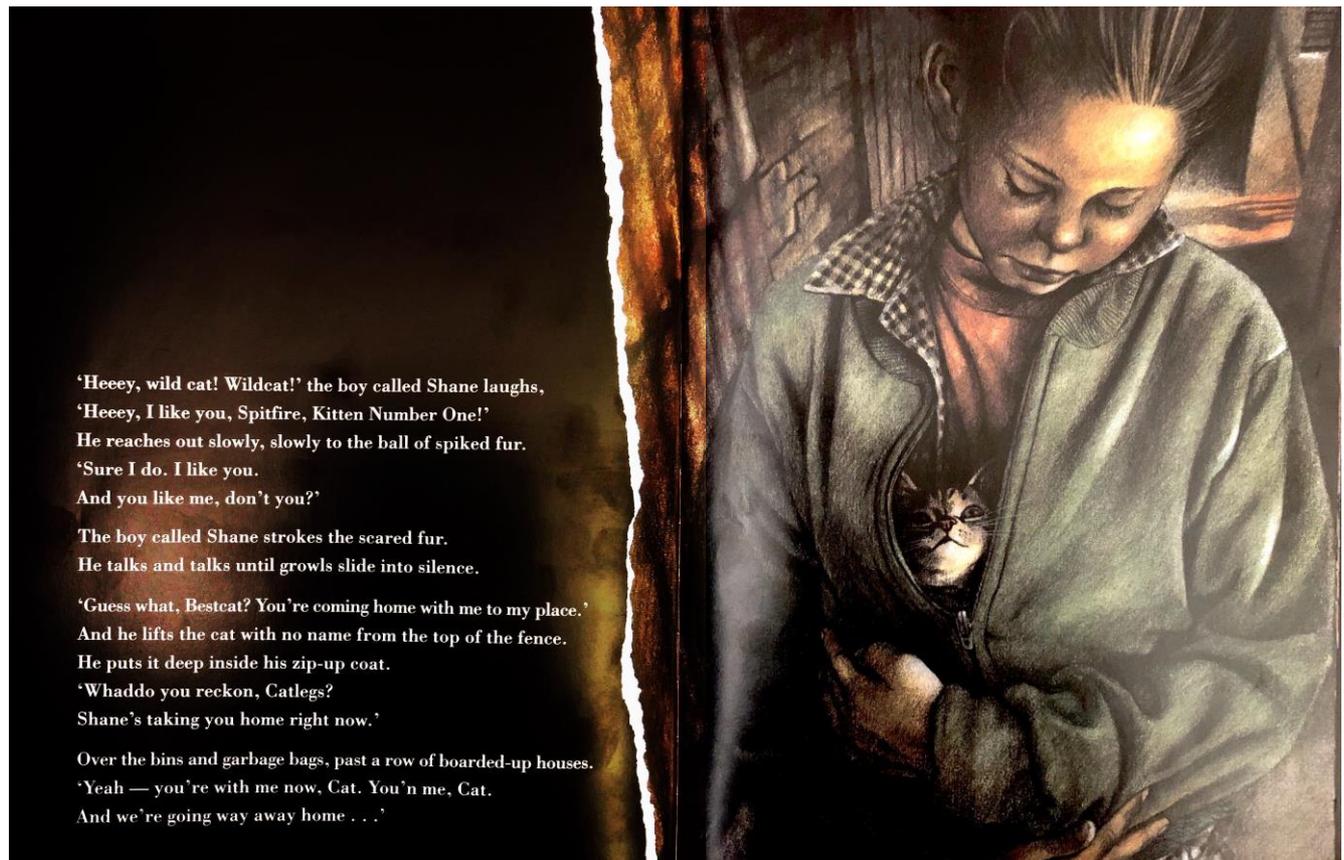


## Take 5: Ideas for Independent/Home Learning

### *Way Home* by Libby Hathorn and Gregory Rogers (Andersen Press)

#### 1. Explore it

Read the text below and take time to look carefully at the illustration:



Think about the character you are introduced to here, the '**boy called Shane**'. What do you think you know about him, his circumstances, how he and the cat came together, and what is happening in the story? What can you tell about Shane's life? How would you describe him? How do you think he feels about living in the city and finding the cat? Now think about the cat. What do you think you know from the cat from the way it is described in the text? What can you tell about the relationship between the cat and Shane from what you see in the text and illustration?

Now think about the setting. Where and when do you think this story might be set? What clues do you find in the text? What clues to what this environment is like can be found in the illustration?

#### 2. Illustrate it

Re-read the passage, or ask someone to read it to you. After you have read it a few times, think about what you can see in your imagination, whatever stood out most to you. Think about the city where Shane lives; we already know about its **bins and garbage bags, [the] row of boarded up houses**. What other details

capture the kind of place it might be? Who else lives there? Where in the world is it? What kind of climate does it have, what is the time of year? What kind of clothing do people there wear, how do they travel, what jobs do they do? How do other people feel about living in this place?

When you have a clear image in your mind, take a pencil and a piece of paper and start to draw the image you thought about. If you don't have a piece of paper to hand, the back of an old letter or envelope will do. Will you have Shane and the cat in the image? Where will you place them? If you have coloured pencils at home, you could use these to add to the atmosphere of the scene.

### 3. Talk about it

- Why do you think Shane has the cat inside his **'zip-up coat'**, and where is he taking it? What are the different names he calls it? Why do you think he calls it a variety of different names?
- Think about the way the cat is introduced to us as a **spiked up ball of fur**. What do you think this tells us about the cat? How it is feeling, or what might have happened to it before Shane came across it?
- Do you think Shane is doing the right thing in taking the cat home? What do you think might happen when they do get back to his home? What makes you think this?
- Look at the way that both the author and illustrator have shown how Shane treats the cat. How would you describe this? What does tell you about his character?

### 4. Imagine it

The extract show us events through Shane's eyes, and it is his voice we hear. Imagine now that you are the cat, recounting the events of the evening: being frightened and jumping up on to the fence (you can decide why and how you got up there!); the boy reaching out, stroking your fur; being lifted down gently from the top of the fence; being put deep inside his zip-up coat; being told he is taking you home.

Write a piece in role as the cat — whatever your name may be — outlining your version of events in your own words and describing your emotions at each stage for someone else to read. You could draw a picture of the cat and add thought bubbles around it to voice the feelings it has as it is rescued.

### 5. Create it

Shane is determined to rescue the cat from the fence, emphasising that the two of them are together now and going to his home. Having written in role as the cat, think about what you need from your home compared to what a cat needs from its home.

What are the things that make a home for you, and that you most associate with home? You could list your needs in terms of food and drink; warmth, clothing and shelter; money, safety and security; cleanliness and health; connection to family; education and leisure. What other items would you add to your list? Which do you think are the most important? Are there any that are a luxury?

Write about what home means to you as if you were explaining the concept to someone who doesn't have a home, for someone else to read. You may choose to do this in drawing and writing, or on the computer if you have access to one. Show your thoughts on home to someone else. Can they suggest any other ideas or any improvements?