



Orientation

Ensure that you have read about using the plan in the Program Guide.

Book summary

Read the following summary to the student.

He can eat a plate of cat food in just two mouthfuls. He stalks the vacuum cleaner and purrs in time with the electric can opener. Megabyte is no ordinary cat – he's a modern high-tech cat.

Introduction

Foster interest and activate the student's background knowledge. Be concise – focus on motivating and involving the student. Encourage prediction by using the text and illustrations on the cover of the book. Discuss new vocabulary and remind the student to use the glossary (when applicable). Also remind the student to ask him/herself questions before, during and after the reading.

Ask the student if they have any pets at home. (If they don't have any, what kind of pet would the student like if they could choose one?) Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of owning a pet and the kinds of animals that make good house pets.

Explain that the cat's name in this story has a double meaning – it relates to a computer byte, which measures a computer's memory capacity, and to the cat's enormous mouth.

What high-tech equipment does the student have at home? (DVD, satellite TV, computer, cell phone?) Can they use this equipment?

Conferencing

Check how well the student reads

When you are conferencing, the student reads all or part of the book to you. Then:

- praise, pause, and prompt appropriately;
- check for accuracy (by counting mistakes) and fluency;
- check for understanding by using one or more of the following methods:
 - asking the comprehension questions provided and any others that seem necessary;
 - asking the student to retell the story in their own words;
 - asking questions about and discussing aspects of the story, such as the theme, plot, main ideas, sequence and characters;
 - encouraging the student to confirm the predictions they made during the orientation.

Decide what the student does next

Next recommend that the student:

- practices some more on the same book, with or without the audio;
- completes one of the activities provided that is related to the book;
- practices with another book from the same level; or
- is assessed for promotion to the next level.

Comprehension questions

1. Why did Erin name her cat Megabyte?
2. What did Mom bring home one day?
3. Where did Erin find the computer mouse when it went missing?
4. What does Megabyte do that might be different from what other cats do?
5. Why might Megabyte have taken the computer mouse?

Answers to the Comprehension questions

1. Accept either of the following: he has an enormous mouth; he's a high-tech cat.
2. A computer.
3. In Megabyte's claws.
4. Answers will vary.
5. Answers will vary.

Supporting English Language Learners

The following are suggestions for optional lessons to take with your English language learners. See the overview chart in the Program Guide for a summary of the text features of this book.

Purpose

Summarizing information

Introduce the concept and practice

The student can demonstrate comprehension through orally restating information from the text.

When the student is familiar with the text, discuss the characters and plot. Who are the characters? What are they like? What happens? What happens next? How does the story end?

Make storytelling cards that have the following headings on one side and their corresponding instruction on the other:

Zoom – Retell one part of the story.

Add on – Add something new to the story.

Rewind – Describe what happened the day before the story began.

Fast-forward – Retell the story as fast as you can.

Viewpoint – Retell the story from another character's viewpoint.

If you wish, make further storytelling cards using your own ideas. Then ask the student to retell the story orally using the cards. They should arrange the cards face down and select one at a time, following the directions on the card.

As an extension, the student could write a brief summary of the story, including the main events and characters.





Name: Date:

Introduction: He can eat a plate of cat food in just two mouthfuls. He stalks the vacuum cleaner and purrs in time with the electric can opener. Megabyte is no ordinary cat – he’s a modern high-tech cat.

Errors M S

Erin Connor calls her cat Megabyte for two reasons. The first reason is _____ enormous mouth. He can _____ a plate of cat _____ in two mouthfuls. The _____ reason he’s called Megabyte _____ because he’s a high-tech _____. He stalks the vacuum _____. He stares at the _____ and T-shirts being flung _____ and around inside the _____ drier. He tries to _____ them through the little _____. He purrs in time _____ the electric can opener when it’s opening _____ can _____ cat food. Erin is _____ that Megabyte could do _____ whole lot more than _____ if their household were _____ high-tech. Erin is _____ expert on the computer _____ school. Even her teacher, Mr. Todd, _____, “Erin, what do we do now?” He always listens _____ she explains how to open files _____ insert graphics. Erin would love to be able to use a computer at home, _____ they don’t have one.

Accuracy Chart (Exact word replacement only)

Words Entered	Score	Level
More than 11 correct		Independent
10 or 11 correct		Instructional
Fewer than 10 correct		Frustration

Errors

M = Meaning (makes sense) ____ S = Syntax (sounds right) ____
Heard Seen Unseen

Comments:





Erin Connor named her cat Megabyte for two reasons. The first reason is his enormous mouth. The second reason he's named Megabyte is because he's a high-tech cat. He stalks the vacuum cleaner and purrs in time with the electric can opener.

Erin is sure that Megabyte could do a lot more if their household were more high-tech. Erin would love to be able to use a computer at home, but they don't have one. Instead, she plays with Megabyte. "Why can't he be more normal and go hunting like other cats?" Erin's mom asks.

"He's gone beyond being a hunter. He's a modern cat," says Erin. Then one day, Erin's mom brings home a computer! It has a mouse and some software. In no time, Erin has the computer turned on and the software installed. Each night, Erin gazes at the screen.

Each night, Megabyte stares at the little gray shape under Erin's right hand. It has a very long tail, and Megabyte sits very still, watching. One Saturday, Erin switches on her computer and reaches for the mouse. It's not there! There's only a frayed gray cable. It looks like something has chewed through the cable.

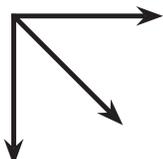
It was something with a big mouth and very sharp teeth. "Megabyte!" screams Erin. Erin looks in the patch of long grass in the yard, and there's Megabyte with the mouse in his claws, chomping on its long gray tail. Megabyte looks Erin straight in the eye. His look seems to say, "I may be a modern cat, but I'm still a cat!"





Name: Date:

Words can be found in these directions:



The letter in each square can only be used in one word.

r	l	w	i	n	d	o	w	t	h	a	t	w
e	t	i	b	o	o	k	s	m	a	n	d	h
a	h	h	t	s	c	r	e	e	n	u	p	a
s	u	i	e	t	o	d	i	s	h	e	s	t
o	n	n	u	m	l	l	m	o	u	t	h	w
n	t	t	s	b	e	e	o	s	o	m	l	a
s	i	e	c	o	p	e	n	n	n	o	o	t
p	n	r	h	e	t	o	p	t	g	r	o	c
l	g	e	o	e	a	t	h	j	a	e	k	h
a	t	s	o	w	h	e	n	o	u	i	s	i
y	h	t	l	c	a	t	c	h	u	m	l	n
s	e	f	a	v	o	r	i	t	e	s	p	g
c	o	m	p	u	t	e	r	h	a	s	e	s

Words to find:

- | | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|--------|----------|
| and | be | books | catch | computer |
| dishes | eat | favorite | has | house |
| hunting | interest | jumps | little | long |
| looks | more | mouth | on | open |
| plays | reasons | school | screen | tail |
| that | the | them | top | up |
| watching | what | when | window | |

Use the letters that are left to make the word that tells which part of Erin's computer Megabyte tried to eat.





- ★ Spin the numbered spinner.
- ★ The highest number starts.
- ★ You need to spin the exact number to move onto the END square.

START
 You named your cat Megabyte. He has an enormous mouth, and he's a high-tech cat.

1

2

3

19

20

21 One day, Mom brings home a computer! Name two numbers. If you spin one of them, go on to 23.

22

4 Megabyte can eat a plate of food in two mouthfuls. Miss a turn.

18

END
 You look in the long grass in the yard. You find Megabyte with the mouse in his claws, chomping on its long gray tail!

23

5

17

30

24 Megabyte likes to stare at the computer mouse. Spin again. Go forward that number.

6

16 Megabyte has some annoying habits. Name two numbers. If you spin one of them, go on to 20.

29

25

7 Megabyte stalks the vacuum cleaner, and he likes the clothes drier. Go back four spaces.

15

28

27 You switch on your computer, but your mouse has gone! Spin again. Go back that number.

26

8

14 You imagine what Megabyte could do if you had a computer. Go on to 17.

13

12

11

10 Megabyte purrs in time with the electric can opener. Go forward three spaces.

9





Name: Date:

Cats are very popular pets. Write a list of reasons why a cat makes such a good pet.

Cats

Reason One:

.....
.....
.....

Reason Two:

.....
.....
.....

Reason Three:

.....
.....
.....

Reason Four:

.....
.....
.....

Write on the back of this page if you need more space.



Write one or two sentences beside each heading. Use your own knowledge about cats to complete this activity.

