

# CAT AND MOUSE CREATIVE ACTIVITY PACK

## BY SOPHIE MASSON AND KATHY CREAMER



Cat photo by Bevis Masson-Leach



Mouse photo by Sophie Masson



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# INTRODUCTION

- In this fabulous activity pack, you will find:
- Discussion, reading and research activities
- Story starter and writing activities
- Looking at art pages
- Hands-on art activities:
- Lots and lots of fun!



**LET'S GET  
STARTED!**

**DISCUSSION, READING AND RESEARCH  
ACTIVITIES, BY SOPHIE MASSON**

# CATS AND MICE ARE FOUND PRETTY MUCH ALL OVER THE WORLD...

- Write down all the things you know about them, for example:
- How many breeds of cat can you list? And how many types of mice?
- What do mice like to eat?
- How many types of sounds do cats make? (eg meowing, purring, etc...)
- What sorts of homes do mice like to make?
- Anything else you know!
- But what about what you *don't* know?

# AMAZING FACTS ABOUT CATS AND MICE

- A ginger tabby cat called Stubbs was once elected Mayor of a town in Alaska (As cats spend 70 percent of their time sleeping, this was a cushy job for Stubbs 😊)
- Mice have supersonic hearing—and can use ultrasound for communication
- Cats use meows only to communicate with humans, not with each other
- Mice are like tiny acrobats—they can walk along very thin pieces of rope or wire
- Most cats live 12-20 years: but one very long-lived puss called Crème Puff lived to the ripe old age of 38
- Mice eat about 15-20 times a day
- What other amazing facts can you find out?



## LET'S TALK ABOUT WORDS TO DESCRIBE CATS

Fluffy

Prowling

Playful

Hunting

Cute

Smart

Agile

What other words can you  
think of?





## LET'S TALK ABOUT WORDS TO DESCRIBE MICE

Scurrying

Quick

Curious

Squeaky

Tiny

Timid

Furry

What other words can you  
think of?





# STORIES ABOUT CATS AND MICE

**ARE FOUND ALL OVER THE WORLD**

# IN ANCIENT EGYPT, CATS HAD A VERY SPECIAL PLACE AS PROTECTORS AND EVEN GODS



Ancient Egyptian  
cat statue and cat  
mummies, held in  
the British  
Museum



# MICE TOO APPEARED IN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ART AND CUSTOM



Three mice statues, in collection of the Metropolitan Museum of New York



Mummified mice found in Ancient Egyptian tomb in 2019

# SOMETIMES THEY WERE BOTH SEEN TOGETHER!



Ancient Egyptian ink drawing on limestone of cat (standing) and mouse (sitting), from collection of the Brooklyn Museum, USA



# CATS AND MICE OFTEN APPEARED IN STORIES IN THE MIDDLE AGES IN EUROPE



Mice attacking a cat castle

# HERE'S THE OLD STORY OF 'BELLING THE CAT' WHICH BECAME FAMOUS IN MANY COUNTRIES OVER THE CENTURIES

- Once upon a time, some mice had a meeting to discuss the household cat and how they could deal with him so he wouldn't catch them. Every mouse had a different idea, until finally one was settled on: a bell had to be put around the cat's neck, so that the mice would all hear him coming and be able to run away in time. 'Great idea,' everyone shouted, until the oldest and wisest mouse said, 'That's all very well—but tell me, who is going to put the bell on the cat?'



# TWO ILLUSTRATIONS FROM THE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY OF 'BELLING THE CAT'



From Japan



From France

A FAMOUS FRENCH FAIRYTALE TELLS OF A VERY SPECIAL CAT: CLEVER PUSS IN BOOTS!



WHILE IN JAPAN, CHINA AND OTHER PARTS OF ASIA  
TODAY, THE 'LUCKY CAT' IS VERY POPULAR



Lucky cats photo by Alain Pham, via  
[Unsplash](#)

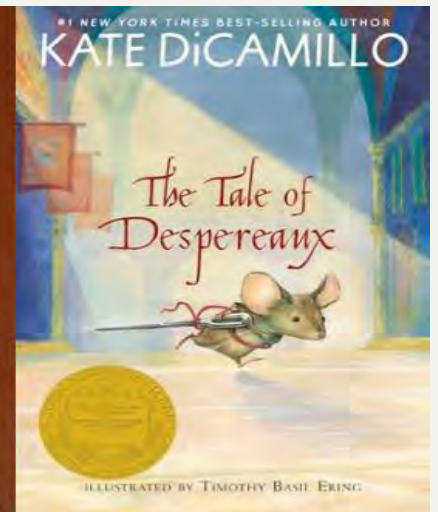
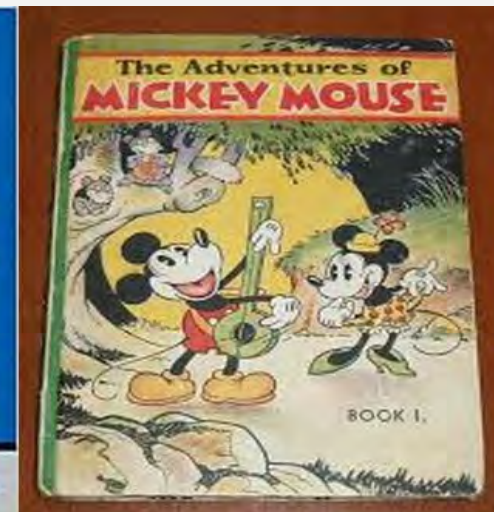
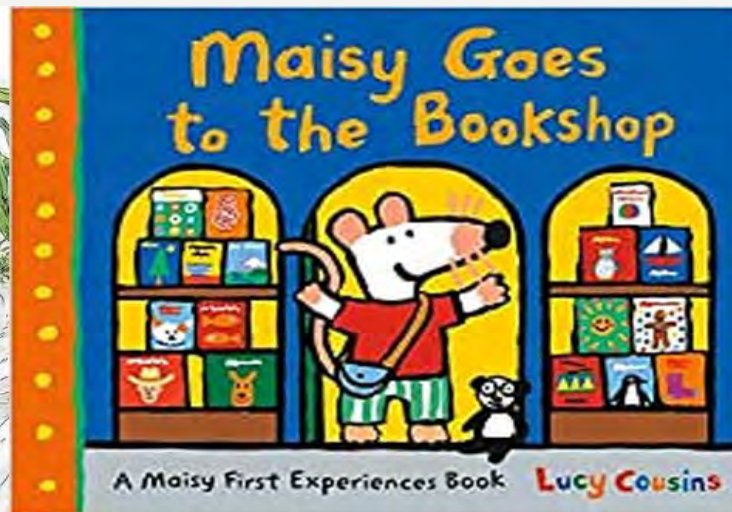
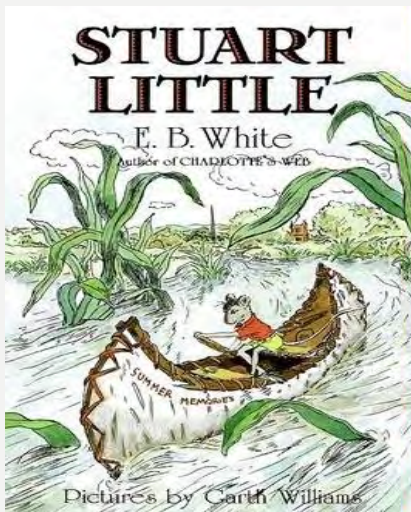
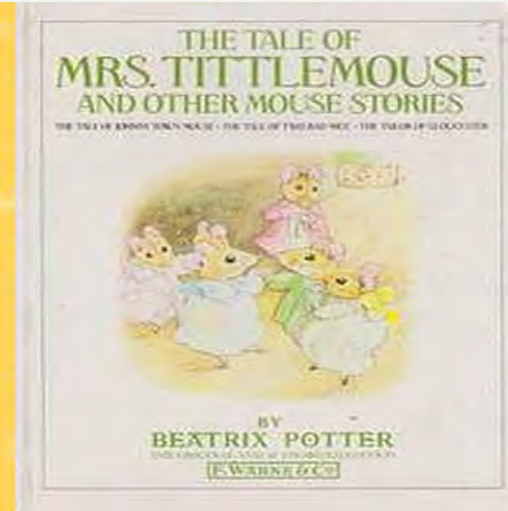
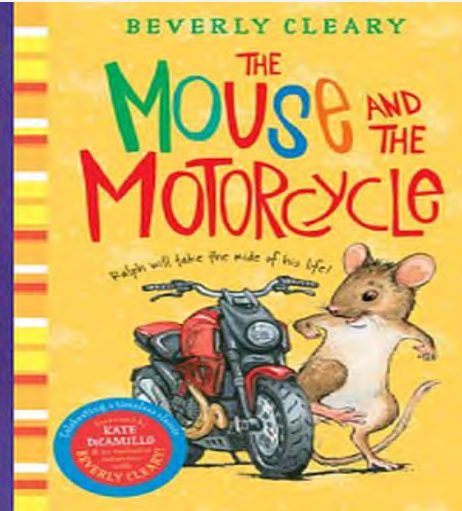
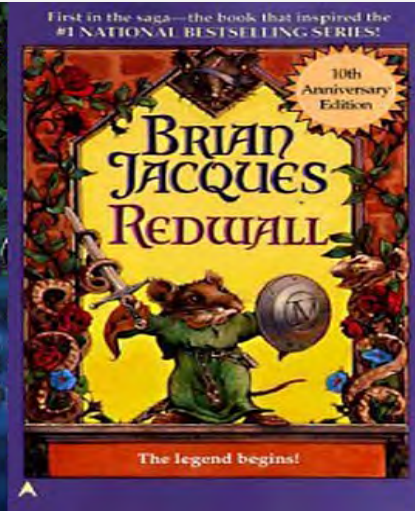
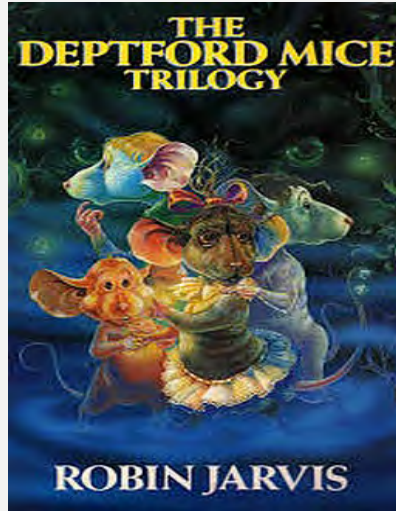


# SOME BOOKS WITH CAT CHARACTERS



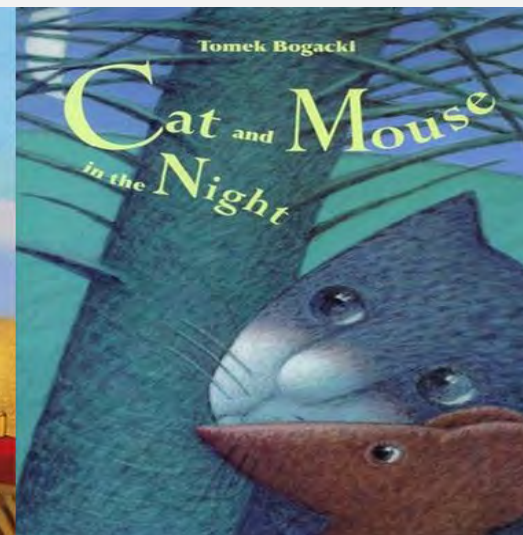
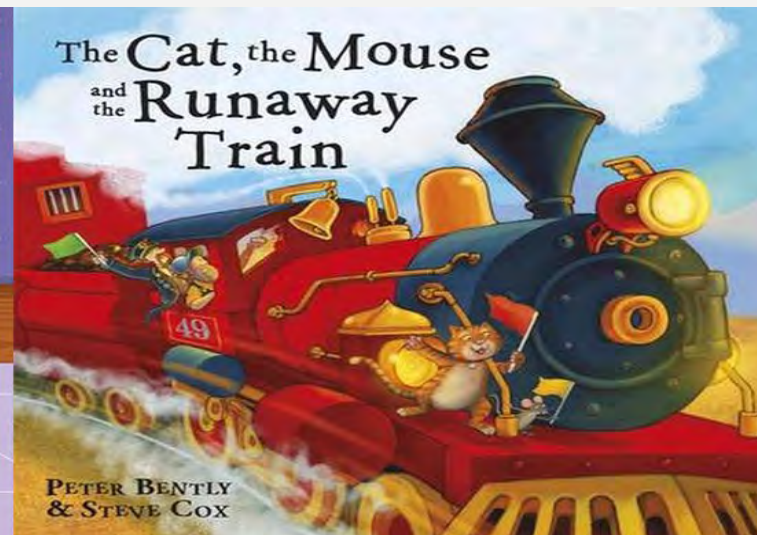
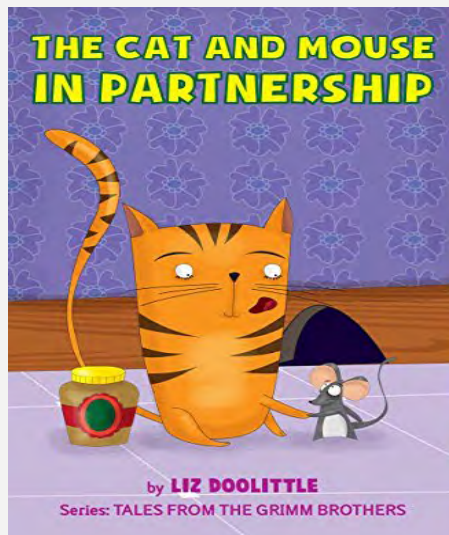
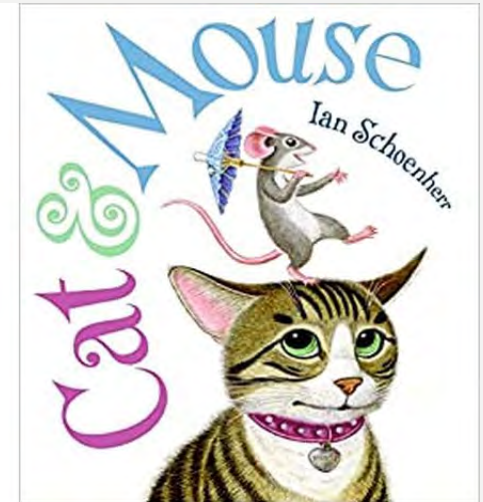
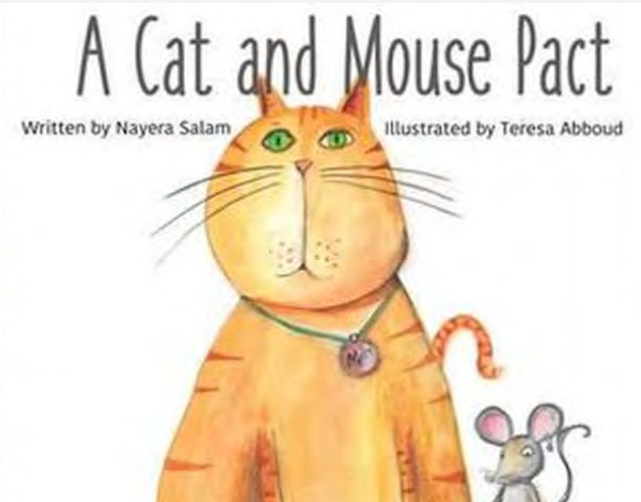
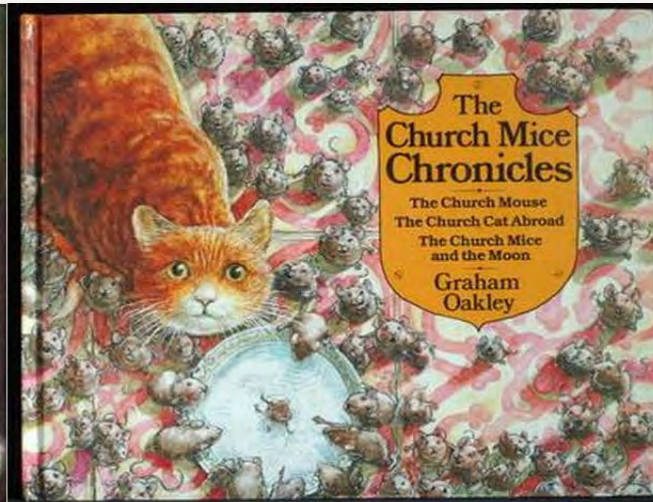
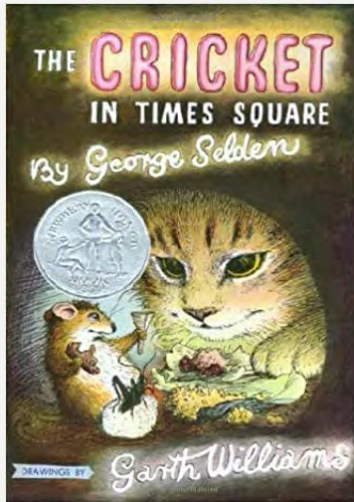


# SOME BOOKS WITH MOUSE CHARACTERS



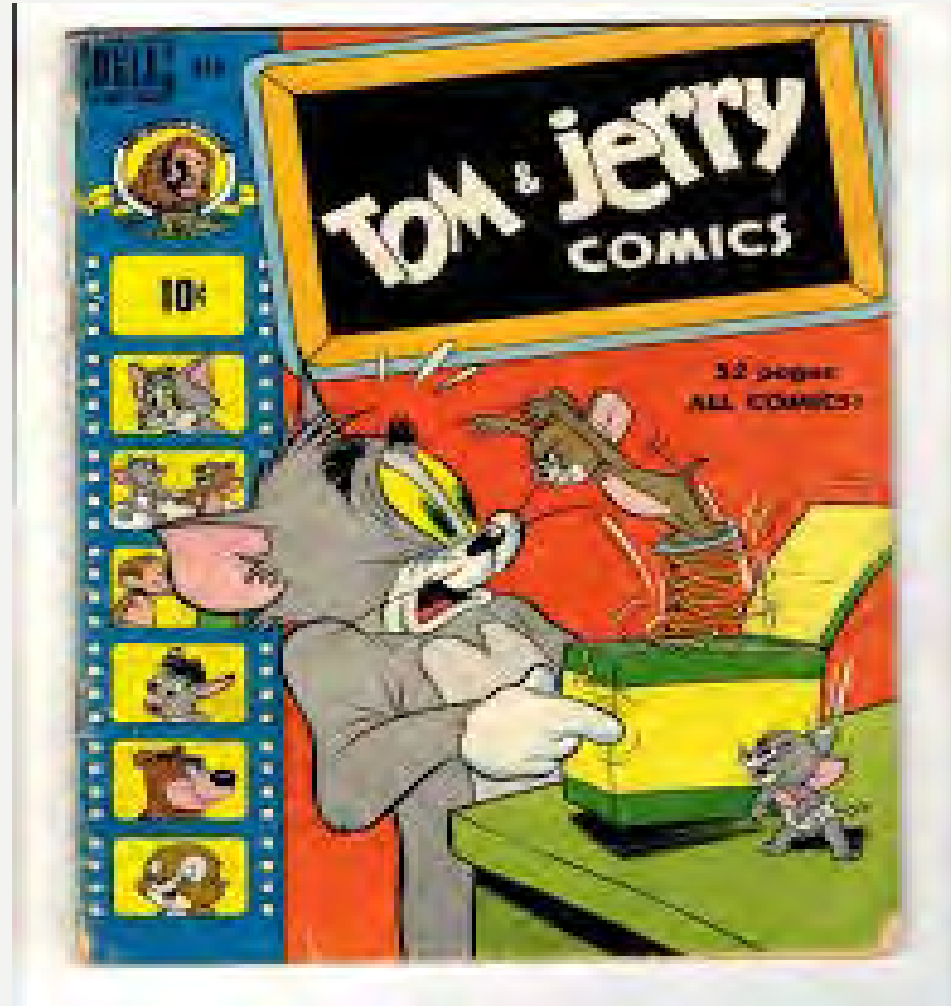


# AND SOME BOOKS WITH CAT AND MOUSE CHARACTERS: SOMETIMES BECOMING FRIENDS...





AND SOMETIMES NOT FRIENDS AT ALL!  
HOW MANY MORE CAT AND MOUSE BOOKS CAN YOU  
FIND?





# STORY STARTER AND WRITING ACTIVITIES

BY SOPHIE MASSON

# GO BACK TO THE OLD STORY OF 'BELLING THE CAT'

- Can you think of a way in which the mice could get the bell around the cat's neck without putting themselves in danger?
- Write a new ending to the story, in which the mice manage to do it. What happens next?
- Draw an illustration for your story.



## **REMEMBER THIS PICTURE?**

Why are the mice attacking  
the cat's castle?

What do you think is going to  
happen?

Write a report from the point  
of the view of the cat in her  
castle

And the point of view of the  
mice, who are attacking the  
castle!

# INVITATIONS

## A POEM BY SOPHIE MASSON

Hello, dear Mouse  
It's a lovely night,  
Won't you come and dance  
In the silver moonlight?

Dear Cat, many thanks,  
But I'm so tired, you see,  
It wouldn't be much fun  
To go dancing with me!



Good morning, dear Mouse,  
On such a fine day  
Let's go have some lunch,  
And then we can play!

Dear Cat, many thanks,  
But lunch isn't my thing,  
Especially when—  
**It is me I must bring!**



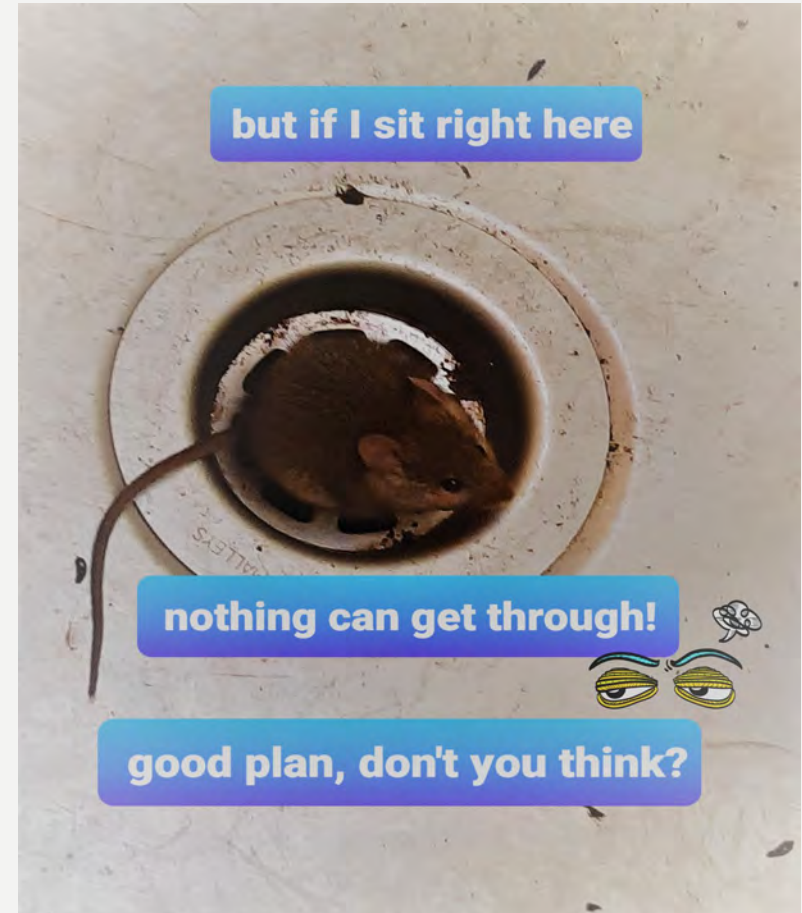
# ONCE YOU'VE READ THE POEM...

Think about what might happen next:

- Does the cat try again, or just wait till the mouse gets hungry and tries to creep out of the hole?
- How can the mouse sneak out without the cat seeing?
- Write your own ending to the poem
- Draw an invitation from the cat to the mouse



# HAVE A LOOK AT THESE TWO PICTURES—AND IMAGINE WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN NEXT!



Photos by Sophie Masson



Photo of cat in Bali, by Sophie Masson

## STORIES ABOUT CATS AND MICE IN REAL LIFE

Do you have a pet cat, or a pet mouse? What are they like?

Have you ever seen a cat hunt a mouse? Have you ever seen a mouse in your house?

Write about your own experiences, or those of your family or people you know, about cats, or mice, or both!

Illustrate them with your own drawings or photos.

# SOME CATS IN ART

HOW ARTISTS HAVE SHOWN THEM

PRESENTED BY SOPHIE MASSON, WITH THANKS TO  
THE NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL ART MUSEUM(NERAM)

# CHECK OUT THESE GREAT ARTWORKS OF CATS IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF PAGES

They come from the extraordinary collection of the fabulous [New England Regional Art Museum \(NERAM\)](#).

The artworks that follow are reproduced with the kind permission of NERAM.

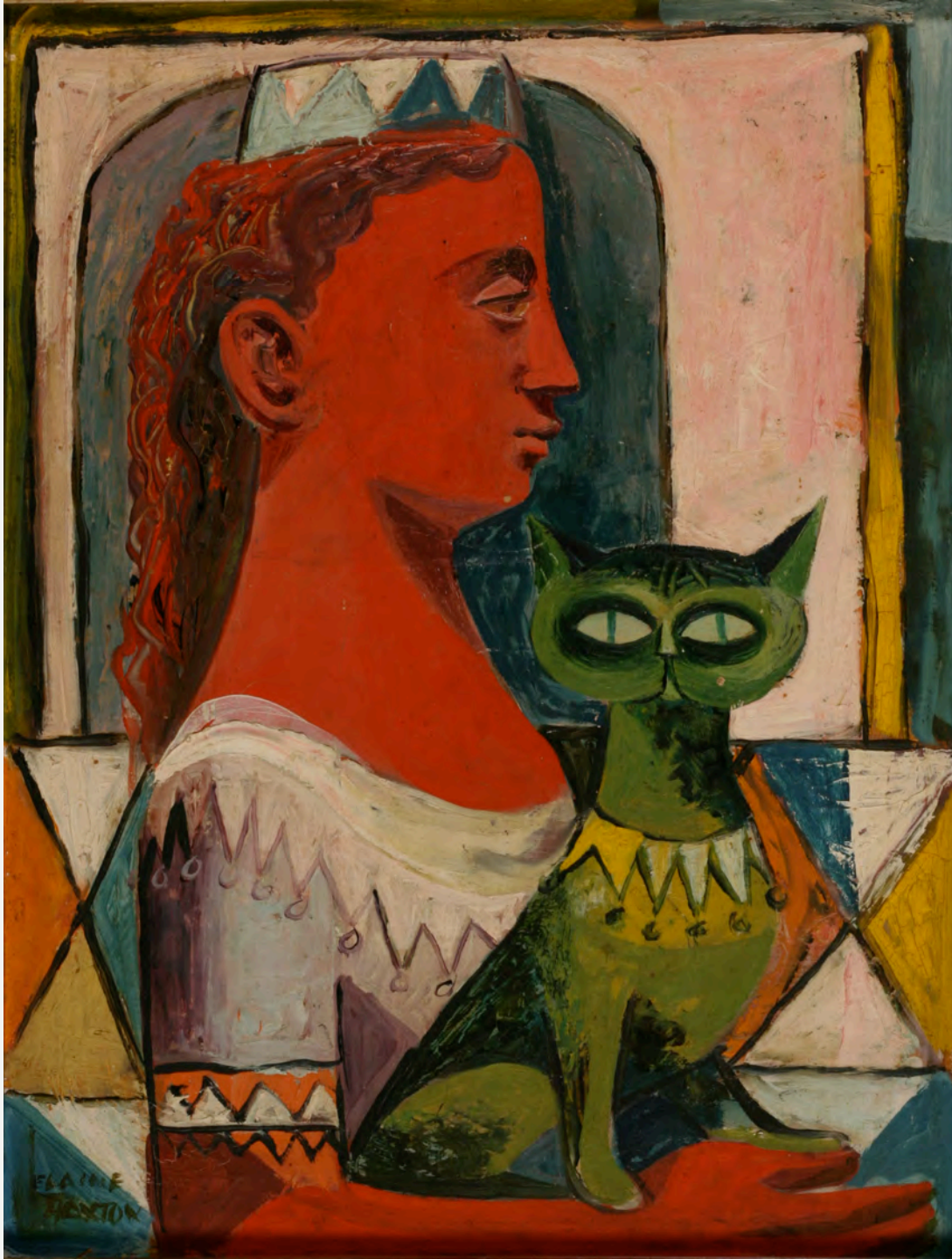
You can find out more about each artist by clicking the links on each page.

To find out more about NERAM, click link above, or logo below.

Enjoy looking, and discuss what you can see in each painting. They're great story starters, too!







'Bell Collar' (1976), a painting by Australian artist [Elaine Haxton](#), 1909-1999.

What's the cat thinking? Does she enjoy being painted? Describe it from the cat's point of view.

# THESE ETCHINGS OF CATS ARE BY AUSTRALIAN ARTIST MARGARET COEN (1909-1993)

**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THIS  
PICTURE?**



**WHAT DO YOU THINK THESE  
CATS ARE LOOKING AT?**







‘Bouquet’ (2003), etching by  
Australian artist [John Olsen](#).

What do you think the cat is doing, in  
this picture?



# SOME MICE IN ART

**PRESENTED BY SOPHIE MASSON'**

WHAT DO YOU THINK THESE MICE ARE DOING?  
DESCRIBE WHAT YOU SEE...



Mice and the candlewick, by French artist Trophime Bigot, 1575-1650.

# CAN YOU SPOT THE MOUSE IN THIS PAINTING BASED ON A FAMOUS FABLE?



‘The Lion and the Mouse’,  
by Flemish artist Frans  
Snyder, 1579—1657.

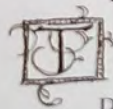
Based on an Aesop fable,  
where the lion spares the  
life of a mouse which has  
woken him up. The mouse  
thanks him and says one  
day he will be able to help  
the lion too. The lion can’t  
believe it—until the day he is  
caught in a hunter’s net and  
the mouse gnaws through  
the rope and sets him free!



# A MOUSE STORY IN PICTURES...



## The Dragon's Pet by Beattie Alvarez



was the day before Christmas and all through the lair,  
Delicious smells wafted, puddings, pies, plums and pear.  
Kids in neat smock, Mamma in neat 'kerchief,  
Cooking up a feast of chook and a stew of beef.  
When all of a sudden arose such a clatter –  
The family pet was covered in batter!  
Out the front door and into the snow,  
Where, oh where, did that naughty pet go?

In the book, [\*Three Dragons for Christmas\*](#), there's a verse story by author-illustrator Beattie Alvarez, called *The Dragon's Pet*, which is about a family of dragons and their naughty pet cat. But there's also a family of mice in the story—their story is wordless and they have to hide from the cat, under the floorboards! Have a look at the next page to see the mouse story, in three pictures, and write or draw your own version of it!

# THE MOUSE STORY IN THREE PICTURES



What do you think is happening?



# HANDS-ON ART ACTIVITIES

**CREATED AND PRESENTED BY KATHY  
CREAMER**



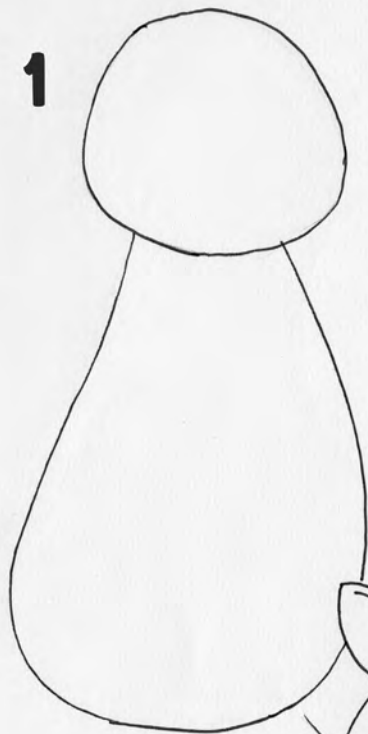


TIME TO GET STARTED ON  
SOME HANDS-ON ART  
ACTIVITIES!

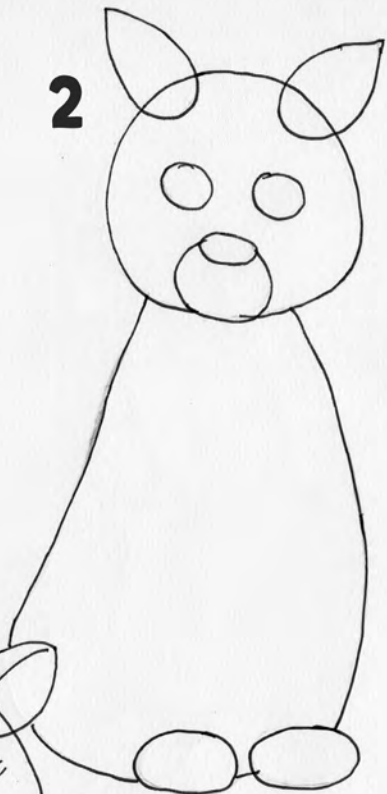
**ACTIVITY 1:**

**CAT AND MOUSE DRAWING FUN!**

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2



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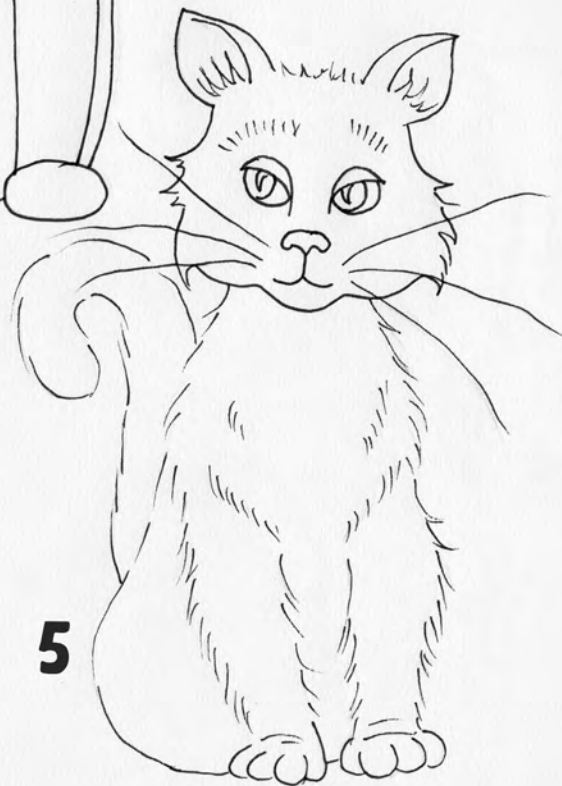


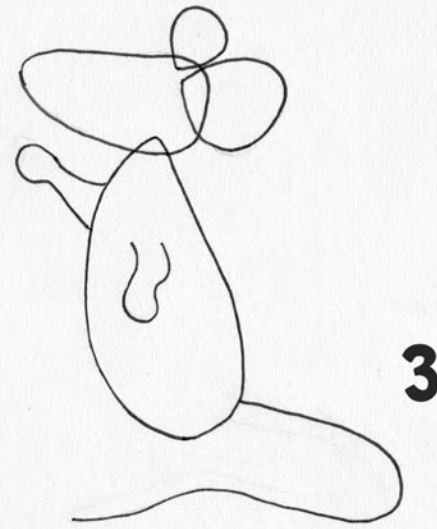
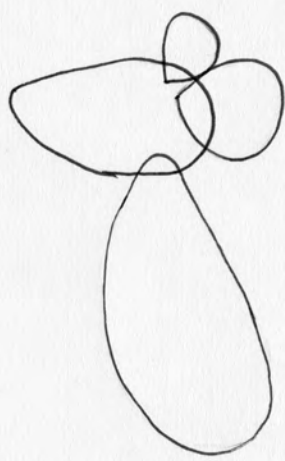
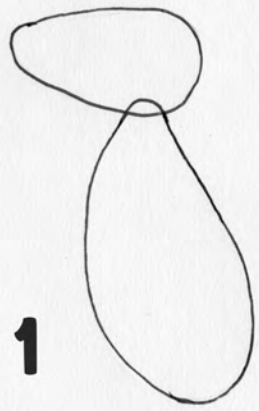
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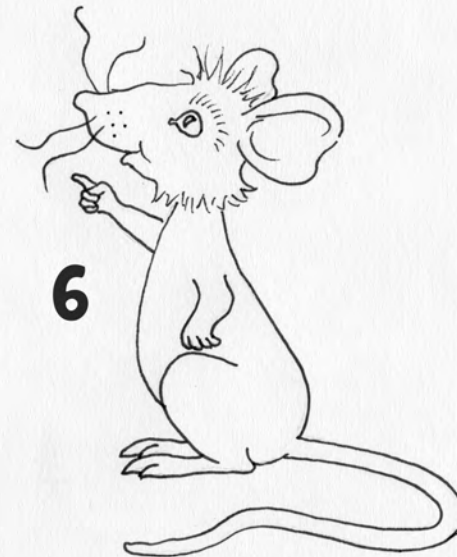
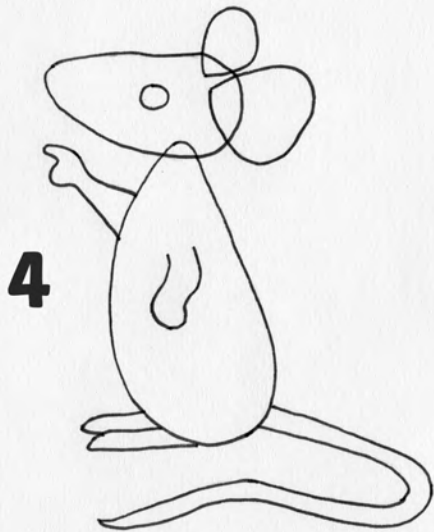
**How to draw  
a cat**

5





## How to draw a Mouse





# ACTIVITY 2: CAT AND MOUSE COLOURING SHEET

**TO PRINT OUT AND COLOUR: ALSO  
AVAILABLE AS A SEPARATE PDF**





## Colouring Sheet







### **ACTIVITY 3: MAKE YOUR OWN CAT AND MOUSE MODELS**

With step by step  
photo instructions!

# How to make a Cat from Sculpey clay

By  
Kathy Creamer

You will need  
white, caramel and  
black Sculpey clay.

Two beads.

A cocktail stick  
or modeling tools  
if you have them.



Take the middle-sized ball of caramel coloured clay to make the cat's head.

Use two of the smaller balls to make the ears.





Flatten the clay to make an ear shape.

Use a flattened white ball of clay to make the inside of the ear.





Shape your ears  
into the shape you  
want and attach to  
the cat's head.

Take a white ball  
of clay to make  
the cat's muzzle.



Flatten the clay and use the cocktail stick to cut away a wedge at the top end.



Attach the white clay where the cat's muzzle would be.

Mark the clay where you want the eyes to be.





Use the cocktail stick to help position the bead eyes.



Take a black ball of clay and shape it into a little heart.

This will make the cat's nose.



Position the nose and make nostril holes with the cocktail stick.

You can make marks for whiskers and a mouth.

Take the large ball of clay to make the cat's body.



Shape the caramel  
clay ball into a short  
oblong.

Flatten a white ball of  
clay to make the  
tummy fur.





Attach the white clay to make the tummy fur.



Use the smaller clay balls to make the cat's back legs.



Two more balls are needed to make the front legs.



Roll a ball into a  
little sausage shape.

Attach a little ball of  
white clay to one end  
to make the cat's paw.





Attach the paw to your cat's body.

You can use the cocktail stick to mark in the cat's toes.



Attach the other front leg to your cat in the same way.

Use two small balls of white and caramel clay to make the back paws.



Attach the first paw and use the cocktail stick to mark out the toes.



Do the same again and attach the other paw.

Now you will need one more ball of caramel and white clay to make the cat's tail.





Roll the caramel and white clay into sausage shapes.

Then join them together.



Attach the tail  
to your cat!



Using the cocktail stick you can make marks for the cat's fur.





Using some fine  
fuse wire, you can  
make some  
whiskers for your  
cat.





Whiskers!

Now he needs to be baked in the oven to harden him.

Follow the instructions on the Sculpey packet for oven timing and temperature.



Just out of the oven.

Have fun!



# How to make a Mouse with Sculpey clay

by  
Kathy Creamer

You will need pink  
and grey Sculpey clay.

Two small beads.

A cocktail stick or  
clay modeling tools,  
if you have them.





Shape one of the grey balls of clay into a mouse head, as shown in the picture.



Flatten two grey balls  
into little ear shapes.



Flatten two pink balls to make the insides of the ears.



Attach ears to the back of the head of your mouse.





Get the beads ready  
to make the eyes.



Press them into the clay with the cocktail stick.



Make a little pink ball for the nose.



Pop the nose  
into position  
and use the  
cocktail stick  
to make the  
nostril holes.





Use the cocktail stick to sculpt a mouth.



Roll out the larger ball of grey clay for the body.



Attach the head  
and press gently  
onto the body.



Flatten two grey balls to make the back legs.





Attach the back legs  
by pressing gently  
into position.



And the same for the  
other leg.



Roll a sausage shape  
for the first front leg.



Attach a blob of pink clay for the paw.

Use the cocktail stick to mark the feet.





Do the same again  
for the other front  
leg.



Use a flattened blob of pink clay to make the first back foot.

Mark out the toes with the cocktail stick.



Roll out a pink  
sausage shape  
for the tail.



Attach the tail.





Position the tail  
how you want it to  
look on your  
mouse.



Now he's ready to be baked hard in the oven.

Follow the instructions on the Sculpey packet for oven temperature and timing.

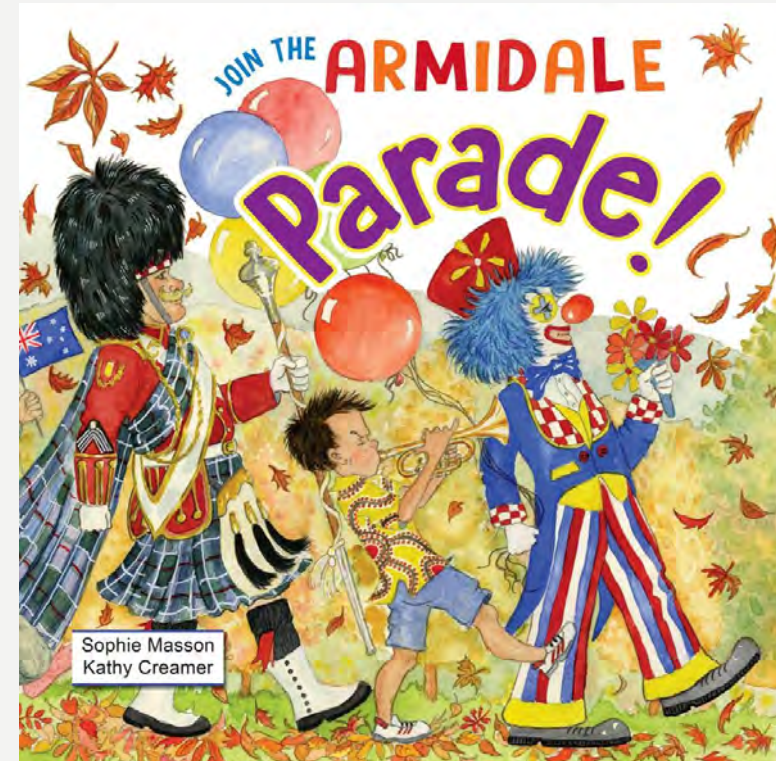
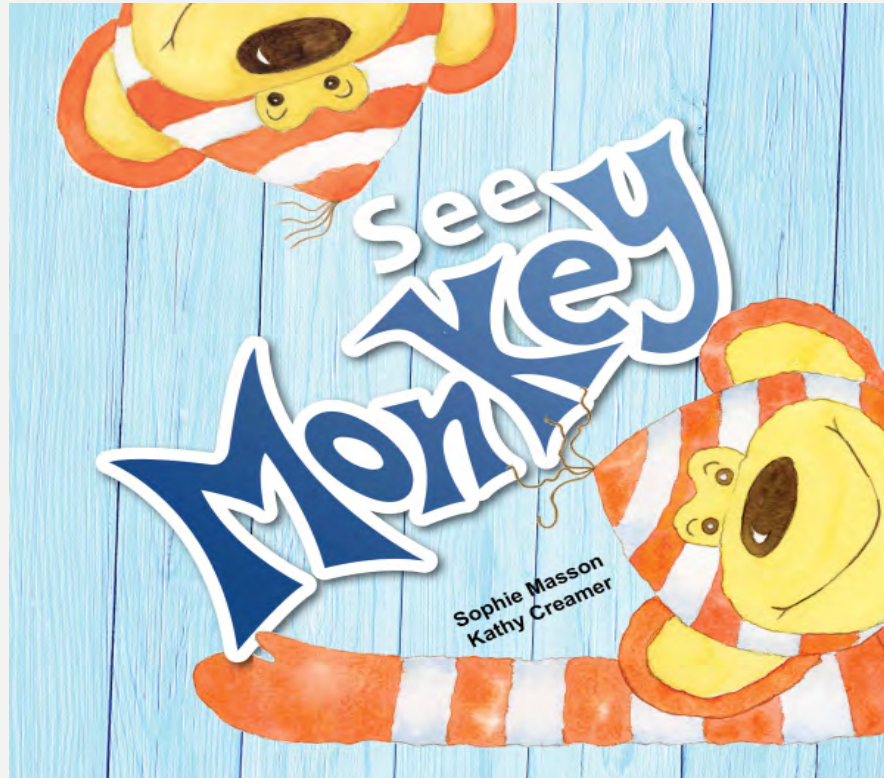


THIS CREATIVE ACTIVITY PACK HAS BEEN CREATED BY AUTHOR  
SOPHIE MASSON AND ILLUSTRATOR KATHY CREAMER. WE ARE FRIENDS  
WHO LIVE IN NORTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA



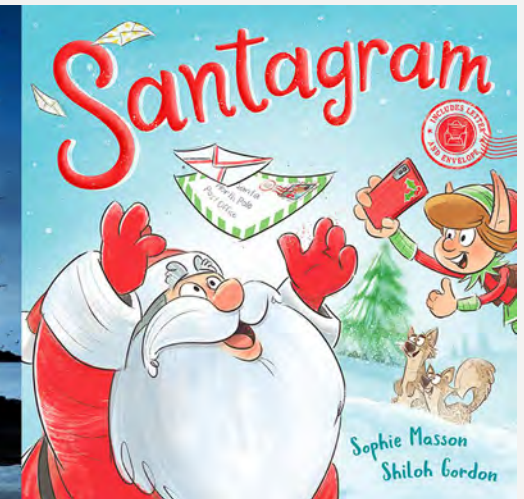
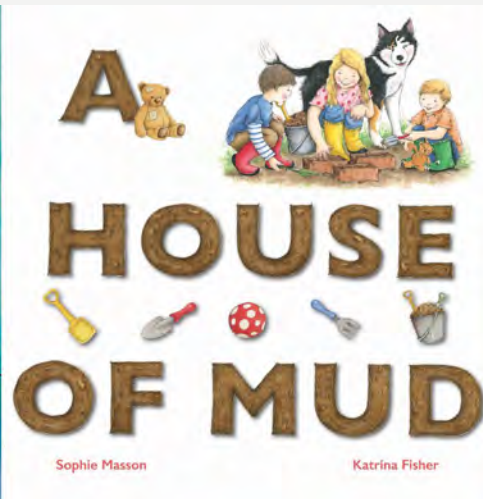


# WE HAVE WORKED ON BOOKS TOGETHER

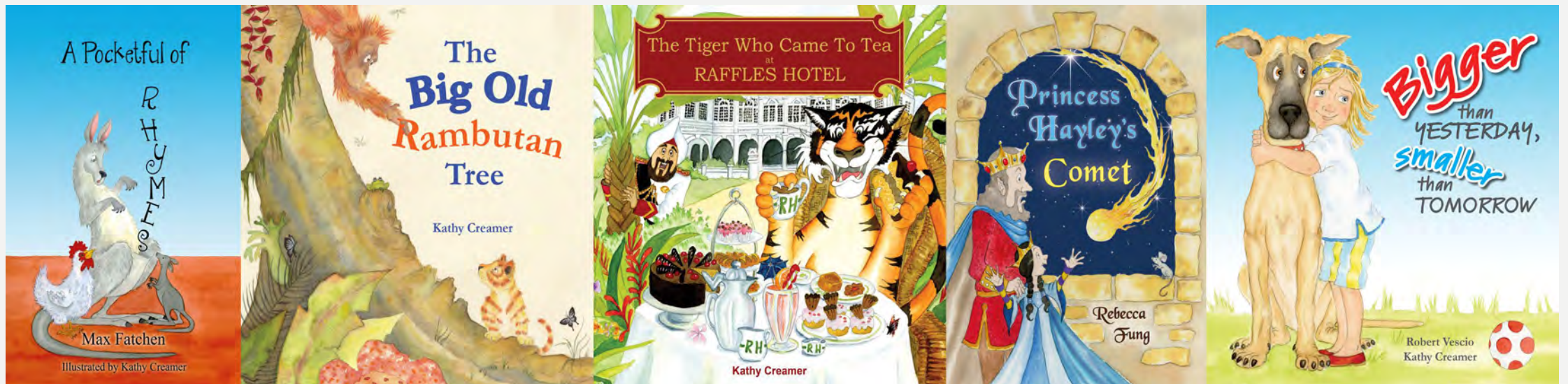




AND SEPARATELY: FOR MORE INFO, CHECK OUT  
SOPHIE'S SITE [HERE](#)



AND CHECK OUT KATHY'S SITE, [HERE](#).





WE HOPE YOU'VE ENJOYED THIS CAT AND MOUSE CREATIVE ACTIVITY PACK!

CHECK OUT OUR OTHER ACTIVITY PACK, FOX AND CHOOKS, [HERE](#).

