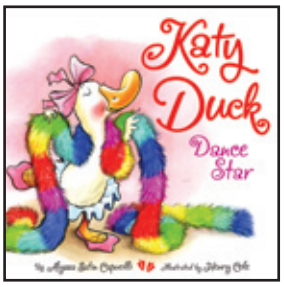
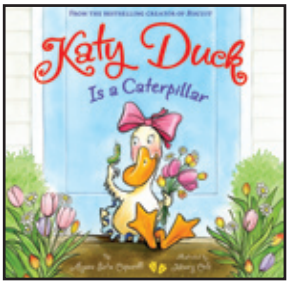
Share Katy Duck with your young readers!

A Teaching Guide for the Katy Duck books by Alyssa Satin Capucilli and illustrated by Henry Cole





Little Simon
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Dear Friends,

Tra-la-la! Quack! Quack! It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the world of Katy Duck. Drawn from my own experience as a professional dancer and teacher of creative movement, Katy, much like myself, *loves* to dance. Even more importantly, Katy loves to *imagine*. And for our young readers, nurturing and encouraging their fertile imaginations is vital.

Whether we create stories through words, or stories through movements, or even through dramatic play, the power to express oneself creatively offers many rewards. For young children, it helps develop cognitive skills, problem solving abilities, independence, and confidence. Katy's vibrant imagination does just that.

Katy dreams big! She teaches us that anything is possible with a bit of hard work, patience, and perseverance….even if her younger brother does "borrow" her favorite tutu every now and then. Now every so often, Katy's imagination lands her in some troublesome predicaments! But Katy's enthusiastic resolve reveals that while making decisions and taking responsibility for those decisions may pose a challenge; there is always a surprisingly creative solution just waiting to be explored.

So whether there is a budding flower or a colorful butterfly in your midst, let your arms begin to flutter; let your feet begin to pitter-patter. Join in the fun and encourage your readers to dream and imagine, and to dance with Katy Duck and friends.

Tra-la-la! Quack! Quack! How I *love* to dance!

Fondly,

Alyssa Satin Capucilli

Illustration © 2008 by Henry Cole

Dance Along with Katy Duck
Tra-la-la! Quack, Quack! How I Love to dance!

Everyone's a Star

Tell children that Katy Duck *loves* to dance. Ask them what *they* love to do: Paint? Sing? Tell jokes? Play T-ball? Explain that what we love to do makes us all stars, and that we shouldn't be afraid to show our special talents to others. Provide children with a template of a large five-point star. Have them trace the template on yellow construction paper and cut it out. Ask children to draw what they love to do on one side of the star. On the other side, assist children with writing their name in glue. Provide colored glitter for them to sprinkle over the glue. Once the stars have dried, punch a single hole through the top of each one, thread a piece of yarn through the hole, and then hang the glittering stars from the ceiling for all to see.

Dancing Shoes

Katy Duck loves to wear her ballet slippers, tutu, and bow when she dances. Tell children this is similar to what real ballet dancers wear. Show them a picture of a ballet dancer in costume. Then have children make a pair of their own Katy Duck dancing shoes. First, draw a child-sized pair of webbed ballet slippers, like the ones Katy Duck wears, on a large sheet of paper. Cut out the slippers so children can use them as templates to trace and create their own. Provide arts and crafts materials, including markers, glue, feathers, cotton balls, and sequins, for children to decorate their slippers any way they like. Help children attach their dance slippers to their feet using tape or string. Encourage them to try out their new Katy Duck dancing shoes by putting on some music and letting them dance around the room!

Move to the Music Week

Katy Duck loves to twirl, stretch, and float. Tell children that there are many different dance moves and types of dance. Introduce them to a few types during a special week you entitle Move to the Music Week. Each day during the week, show children a picture, short video, or simple demonstration of a different kind of dance, such as tap, ballet, square dance, ballroom, or hip-hop. Then play the music associated with the type of dance you've chosen, such as jazz, classical, bluegrass, Latin, or pop. Ask children to imitate the dance as best they can. Encourage children to have fun with it and not to be afraid of getting all the moves right.

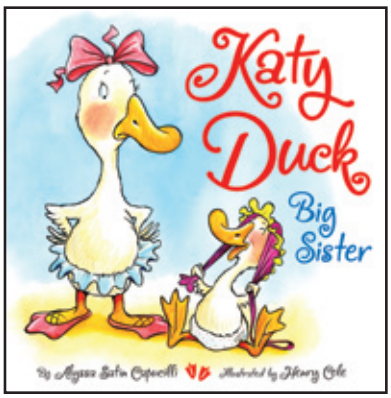
On the last day of the week, have a dance party. Put together a recording of short samples of the music you've played during the week. Make sure to vary the length of each sample: Some samples should be short (15–20 seconds) while other samples should be longer (30 or more seconds). Tell children that they are to dance according to the style of music they hear. When the music changes styles, they should change their dance movements to match. Celebrate the end of your special Move to the Music week by handing out ribbons or certificates for all of the children who participated.

Beginning, Middle, and End

Cut out the pictures from *Katy Duck*. What happens first in the story? What happens next? What happens last? Put the six pictures in the correct order. Use the book to help you.

Illustrations © 2008 by Henry Cole

Katy Duck, Big Sister



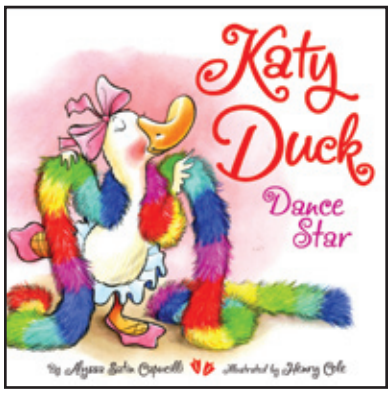
Drawing Your Feelings

Explain to children that illustrators are people who draw pictures for books. Show children Henry Cole's illustrations in *Katy Duck, Big Sister*. Review the illustrations of Katy and her brother, Emmett, on pages 9–12 and 14 of the book. Have children identify the emotion connected to each character (for example, on page 9 Emmett is happy and Katy is surprised). Place children in groups. Give each group a small handheld mirror, paper, crayons, scissors, glue, and Popsicle sticks. Tell children they will be drawing their own happy and sad faces. Have them make an exaggerated happy face and take turns studying their face in the mirror. Ask children to draw their happy face on one side of the paper. Then ask the children to draw their sad face on the other side of the paper. Finally, have children cut around the shape of their "faces" and glue a Popsicle® stick to the paper to make a mask.

Share and Share Alike

Tell children that Katy Duck has trouble learning to share her things with her brother, Emmett. Schedule a Sharing Day for children. On that day, have children bring in one item they would like to share with everyone. It might be a favorite stuffed animal, storybook, special treat, or board game. Put children into small groups. Have each group sit in a circle. Tell children that each time you blow a whistle or clap your hands loudly, they will pass their treasured item to the person sitting to the right. Allow children to explore and play with the new item for a brief period of time during each rotation. Repeat the game until everyone has had a chance to share and play with all the items.

Illustrations © 2008 by Henry Cole



A Rule Is a Rule

In *Katy Duck, Dance Star*, Katy's fluffy boa gets in the way of other people. Explain to children that being polite keeps everyone happy. Have the children make a list of all the ways they can be considerate in the classroom and at home. Post the list on your bulletin board.

A Letter of Apology

In *Katy Duck, Dance Star*, Katy apologizes for being inconsiderate. Have children think about a time they had to say sorry or about something they've done for which they might need to apologize. Distribute pencils and copies of the letter template provided on the following page. Have children complete the template appropriately. If children have difficulty, supply them with the words to fill in each blank, or ask them to draw a picture of what they think saying sorry means (for instance, a heart to show they love someone). Have children deliver their letters to the addressees.

Illustrations © 2008 by Henry Cole

A Letter of Apology

Dear_____,

I'm sorry for_____

_____

_____

_____

Love, _____

Illustrations © 2008 by Henry Cole

Katy Duck, Center Stage

In the Spotlight

In *Katy Duck, Center Stage*, Katy experiences a moment of stage fright during her first dance recital. Ask children if they've ever felt scared or nervous about performing or speaking in front of others. Talk about things they could do to get over these feelings and enjoy themselves onstage. Then invite dancers, singers, or an acting troupe to put on a performance for the children. Ask the performers to discuss what performing means to them and to talk about how they deal with stage fright.

Choreography Cards

Katy Duck learns a special dance routine for her recital. She practices hard to get all the moves right before the big show. Tell children that dancers usually follow a series of dance moves when they put on performances. Place children into small groups. Have each group cut out and color the dance cards on the next page. Take a moment to read and demonstrate each move on the cards. Tell children to put the cards in a stack, mix them up, and put them facedown on the floor. Have children take turns flipping over a card and performing the dance move it shows. Encourage children to repeat the activity until all cards have been flipped and they can perform all four moves together. Then challenge them to learn a new dance routine by mixing up the cards again. This activity can also be performed with one large group of children using one set of cards.

Illustrations © 2008 by Henry Cole

Choreography Cards

Leap!

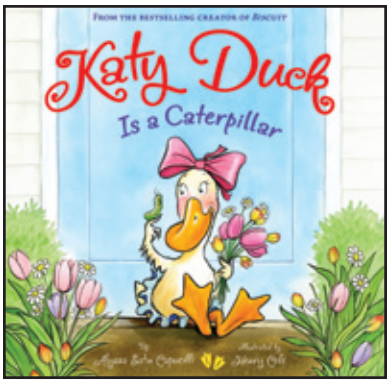
Twirl!

Stretch!

Flutter!

Illustrations © 2008 by Henry Cole

Katy Duck Is a Caterpillar



A Dance for All Seasons

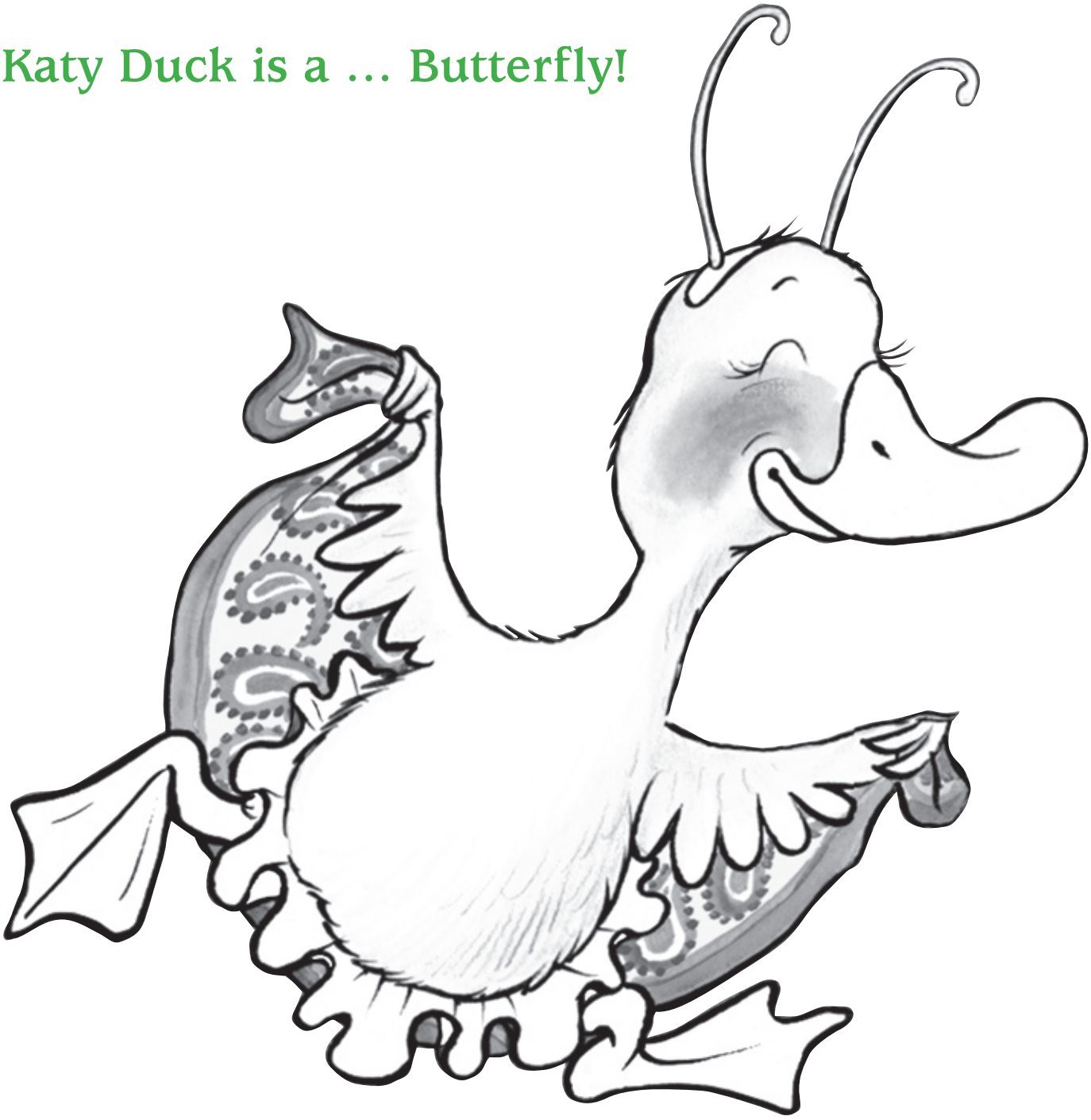
Katy Duck loves spring. She loves to mimic the movements of spring plants and animals. Have children imitate the typical weather and plant and animal life during all four seasons. For instance, ask children to twirl like leaves in the fall, flutter like snowflakes in winter, stretch open like flower buds in the spring, and fly like birds in the breezes of summer.

There Are No Small Parts!

Encourage children to put on a performance for family and friends, your school, and other members of the community. Choose a familiar fairy tale to perform, or reenact the story of Katy Duck's spring dance recital in *Katy Duck Is a Caterpillar*. Write a simple script for the play. Then assign children speaking and acting roles. You may also assign children to prop, set, and costume responsibilities. During play rehearsals, remind children that it takes many important people to put on a successful performance, and that there are no small parts! Have children create personalized invitations to the play. Plan an after-party for the night of the performance by asking children to bring a snack or treat to share.

Illustrations © 2008 by Henry Cole

Katy Duck is a … Butterfly!



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Dancing Duck

Word Box

TURTLE	HOG	LION	DOG	SNAKE

Katy Duck isn't the only animal who likes to dance. Find the animal name in the word box that has the same first letter of each descriptive word below. Write the letters of the animal name on the correct spaces. Then draw each animal dancing.

DANCING _____ _____ _____

HOPPING _____ _____ _____

LEAPING ____ ____ ____ ____

SPINNING ____ ____ ____ ____ ____

TAPPING ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____