

Cats In Literature

Cats in Literature: A Purrfectly Literary History

Have you ever noticed how often cats pop up in literature? From mischievous companions to mystical symbols, felines have captivated writers for centuries, weaving their way into narratives across genres and cultures. This post delves into the fascinating world of cats in literature, exploring their diverse portrayals, symbolic meanings, and enduring presence in some of our most beloved books and stories. We'll journey from ancient Egyptian mythology to modern-day bestsellers, uncovering the rich and varied literary lives of these enigmatic creatures. Prepare to be charmed, surprised, and perhaps even a little enlightened by the enduring power of the cat in storytelling.

Ancient Whispers: Cats in Early Literature

The earliest appearances of cats in literature are deeply intertwined with their revered status in ancient Egypt. Long before they became beloved household pets in the West, cats held a powerful symbolic position, often associated with goddesses like Bastet, representing protection, fertility, and domesticity. While much of this early literature is fragmented or lost to time, the enduring image of the cat in Egyptian art and hieroglyphs hints at a rich literary tradition that celebrated their divine qualities. These early depictions laid the groundwork for how cats would later be perceived and portrayed in literature across the globe.

The Medieval Muse: Cats and Their Changing Roles

As cats spread across the globe, their literary presence evolved. Medieval literature often depicted cats in more ambivalent ways. Sometimes seen as helpful companions, keeping barns free of rodents, other times they were associated with witchcraft and the supernatural. This duality reflects the shifting perceptions of cats within society, sometimes revered, sometimes feared. Think of the countless folklore tales and medieval ballads that feature cats in both positive and negative roles, showcasing the complex relationship between humans and felines during this period.

The Enlightenment and Beyond: Cats as Characters

The Enlightenment saw a shift towards more realistic and nuanced portrayals of cats in literature. The rise of the novel allowed for more detailed character development, and cats began to emerge as complex, relatable figures. While still sometimes symbolic, they also became individual characters with their own distinct personalities and motivations. This period marked the beginning of the cat's transition from purely symbolic representation to genuine literary character.

The Victorian Era: Cats and Domesticity

The Victorian era, with its emphasis on domesticity and sentimentality, saw cats firmly entrenched in the literary landscape. They became symbols of comfort, companionship, and even a touch of mystery. Many Victorian novels featured cats as observant companions, often reflecting the emotional states of their human owners. This period saw a shift towards anthropomorphizing cats, granting them more human-like qualities and emotions, paving the way for even more complex portrayals in subsequent eras.

The 20th and 21st Centuries: Cats as Stars

The 20th and 21st centuries have witnessed an explosion in cat-centric literature. From children's books celebrating playful kittens to literary fiction exploring the deep bond between humans and their feline companions, cats continue to capture the imaginations of writers. We see them as quirky characters in popular novels, as wise and enigmatic figures in fantasy, and as the stars of numerous beloved children's stories. The cat's literary reign continues, evolving and adapting to the changing tastes and styles of different eras. Famous examples include the sophisticated and independent cats in T.S. Eliot's "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats," which inspired the musical "Cats," or the many feline companions in children's literature that provide comfort and adventure.

The Symbolism of Cats in Literature: Deciphering the Feline Code

Throughout literary history, cats have consistently carried symbolic weight. Their independence often represents freedom and self-reliance; their nocturnal habits connect them with the mystical and unknown; their agility and grace symbolize elegance and dexterity. However, the symbolism can vary depending on the cultural context and the specific narrative. Understanding these symbolic associations enriches the reading experience, allowing for a deeper appreciation of the cat's role within the broader story.

Beyond the Page: Cats and Their Lasting Literary Legacy

The enduring presence of cats in literature is a testament to their captivating nature and their unique ability to resonate with readers across cultures and time periods. They are more than just pets; they are symbols, characters, and muses. Their depiction in literature reflects the evolving relationship between humans and animals, showcasing the complexities of our interactions with the natural world. As long as humans continue to be fascinated by the enigmatic charm of cats, their presence in literature will undoubtedly continue.

Conclusion:

From ancient Egypt to contemporary bestsellers, cats have undeniably left their paw prints on the literary world. Their diverse portrayals, symbolic meanings, and enduring presence in narratives demonstrate their captivating allure and enduring significance in storytelling. Whether mischievous companions, mystical figures, or simply beloved pets, cats enrich literature with their enigmatic charm and complex personalities, ensuring that their literary legacy continues to thrive.

FAQs:

1. Are there any famous literary cats that aren't anthropomorphized? While many literary cats are given human-like characteristics, some maintain a more realistic portrayal, reflecting their independent and often mysterious nature. Many cats in classic Victorian novels, for instance, observe human interactions rather than actively participating in them as characters.
2. How has the portrayal of cats in literature changed over time? The portrayal of cats has evolved dramatically. Early literature often depicted cats based on their symbolic or mythological significance, while later literature emphasizes their personalities and relationships with humans. Modern literature showcases a more diverse range of cat personalities and roles.
3. What are some examples of cats in children's literature? Many children's books feature cats as central characters, often portraying them as playful, adventurous companions. Examples include the Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss or the countless stories featuring talking cats on adventures.
4. How do cats contribute to the themes of certain literary works? Cats can represent various themes, such as independence, mystery, freedom, and companionship. Their inclusion in a narrative often enhances and deepens the underlying themes, adding layers of meaning to the story.
5. Are there any specific literary genres where cats are particularly prevalent? While cats appear across many genres, they are particularly prevalent in fantasy, children's literature, and realistic fiction exploring the human-animal bond. Their adaptability to different narrative styles ensures their continuous presence in the literary world.

cats in literature: Old Possum's Book Of Practical Cats T. S. Eliot, Edward Gorey, 2019-10-08 The inspiration for the iconic musical *Cats*, T. S. Eliot's classic and delightful collection of poetry about cats. These lovable cat poems were written by T. S. Eliot for his godchildren and continue to delight children and adults alike. This collection is a curious and artful homage to felines young and old, merry and fierce, small and unmistakably round. This is the ultimate gift for cat and poetry lovers.

cats in literature: *Cats in Books* Rodney Dale, 2008 A presentation of some of the finest renderings of cats as they have appeared in books over the centuries.

cats in literature: *Millions of Cats* Wanda Gág, 1928 How can an old man and his wife select one cat from a choice of millions and trillions.

cats in literature: *On Cats*, 2021-11-02 For centuries, cats have been worshipped, adored and mistrusted in equal measure. This beautiful gift book contains a selection of essays, stories, and poems on cats by writers from across the ages. In these pages, writers reflect on the curious feline qualities that inspire such devotion in their owners, even when it seems one-sided. Cats' affections are hard-won and often fickle. Freud considered his cat an embodiment of true egoism; Hilaire Belloc found peace in his feline companion's complacency; and Hemingway—a famous

cat-lover—wrote of drinking with his eleven cats and the pleasant distraction they gave him. Edward Gorey can't turn down a stray despite the trouble they cause him, and admits he has no idea what they're thinking about; Muriel Spark gives practical advice on how to teach a cat to play ping-pong; Nikola Tesla, who helped design the modern electricity supply system, describes a seminal experience with a cat that first sparked his fascination with electricity; and Caitlin Moran considers the unexpected feelings of loss after the death of her family cat. These writers, and many others (including Mary Gaitskill, Alice Walker, Ursula K. Le Guin, John Keats, James Bowen, Lynne Truss, and more), paint a joyful portrait of cats and their mysterious and loveable ways. As Hemingway wrote, "one cat leads to another." The book features six black-and-white cat portraits by photographer Elliot Ross.

cats in literature: *Cat in the City* Julie Salamon, 2014-09-04 A tender and beautifully illustrated debut children's book from a New York Times bestselling team A city savvy stray cat named Pretty Boy has always managed to make it on his own. He's as vain as they come, and he won't admit to being dependent on anyone. But as he discovers the pleasures of friendship, he learns that home really is where the heart is. Or, at the very least, home is where his friends are. And with friends all around New York City, Pretty Boy will always have a place to call home. The author and illustrator team who brought us the New York Times bestseller *The Christmas Tree* introduce an unforgettable animal adventure in the tradition of *A Cricket in Times Square* and *The One and Only Ivan*. The result is a story that will captivate readers of all ages with its warmth and wit.

cats in literature: *Reading Cats and Dogs* Françoise Besson, Zélia M. Bora, Marianne Marroum, Scott Slovic, 2020-12-30 Throughout the world, people spend much of their time with animal companions of various kinds, frequently with cats and dogs. What meanings do we make of these relationships? In the ecocritical collection *Reading cats and Dogs*, a diverse array of scholars considers the philosophy, literature, and film devoted to human relationships with companion species. In addition to illuminating famous animal stories by Beatrix Potter, Jack London, Italo Svevo, and Michael Ondaatje, readers are introduced to the dog poems of Shuntarō Tanikawa, a Turkish documentary on stray cats as neighborhood companions, and the representation of diverse animal companions in Cameroonian novels. Focusing on "Stray and Feral Companions," "The Usefulness of Companion Animals," and "Problematizing Companion Animals," *Reading Cats and Dogs* aims both to confirm and topple readers' assumptions about the fellow travelers with whom we share our lives, our streets and fields, and our planet. Fifteen contributors from various countries reveal the aesthetic, ethical, and psychological complexities of our multispecies relationships, demonstrating the richness of ecocritical animal studies.

cats in literature: *The Big New Yorker Book of Cats* The New Yorker Magazine, 2013-10-01 Look what The New Yorker dragged in! It's the purr-fect gathering of talent celebrating our feline companions. This bountiful collection, beautifully illustrated in full color, features articles, fiction, humor, poems, cartoons, cover art, drafts, and drawings from the magazine's archives. Among the contributors are Margaret Atwood, T. Coraghessan Boyle, Roald Dahl, Wolcott Gibbs, Robert Graves, Emily Hahn, Ted Hughes, Jamaica Kincaid, Steven Millhauser, Haruki Murakami, Amy Ozols, Robert Pinsky, Jean Rhys, James Thurber, John Updike, Sylvia Townsend Warner, and E. B. White. Including a Foreword by Anthony Lane, this gorgeous keepsake will be a treasured gift for all cat lovers. Praise for *The Big New Yorker Book of Cats* "The Book of Cats comes a year after *The Big New Yorker Book of Dogs*—a publishing slight that, though it stings, I'll forgive, as the latest anthology was worth the wait. . . . Two standout articles feature real-life obsessives of ages past who reveal today's Caturday devotees—with their GIFs and Tumblrs and hastily aggregated listicles—for what they truly are: amateurs. . . . Eat your heart out, *Cute Overload*."—The New York Times Book Review "A beautiful hardcover."—Jenny McCarthy, People "This irresistible anthology of articles, poems, essays, fiction, cartoons, and covers pulled from the New Yorker is a veritable treasure trove for cat lovers. Just dive right in; with stories from the likes of John Updike, Maeve Brennan, Roald Dahl, and Haruki Murakami interwoven with hilariously wry cartoons, one can't help but be enthralled. A must-have."—Modern Cat "A shiny, well-fed tome . . . The anthology embodies the cat's defining

characteristic: its cluster of opposites, rolled together into a giant hairball of cultural attitudes—something, perhaps, at once uncomfortably and assuringly reflective of our own chronically conflicted selves.”—Brain Pickings “This gorgeous book has earned a permanent spot on my coffee table. It is an absolute joy to read and browse through, and I know it will bring me hours and hours of pleasure for years to come. And it makes a purr-fect gift for the special cat lovers in your life.”—The Conscious Cat “[A] sumptuous volume.”—The Dallas Morning News

cats in literature: The Literary Cat Jean Claude Suares, Seymour Chwast,

cats in literature: The Cat Who Saved Books Sosuke Natsukawa, 2021-12-07 AN INDIE NEXT PICK! From the #1 bestselling author in Japan comes a celebration of books, cats, and the people who love them, infused with the heartwarming spirit of *The Guest Cat* and *The Travelling Cat Chronicles*. Bookish high school student Rintaro Natsuki is about to close the secondhand bookstore he inherited from his beloved bookworm grandfather. Then, a talking cat appears with an unusual request. The feline asks for—or rather, demands—the teenager’s help in saving books with him. The world is full of lonely books left unread and unloved, and the cat and Rintaro must liberate them from their neglectful owners. Their mission sends this odd couple on an amazing journey, where they enter different mazes to set books free. Through their travels, the cat and Rintaro meet a man who leaves his books to perish on a bookshelf, an unwitting book torturer who cuts the pages of books into snippets to help people speed read, and a publishing drone who only wants to create bestsellers. Their adventures culminate in one final, unforgettable challenge—the last maze that awaits leads Rintaro down a realm only the bravest dare enter . . . An enthralling tale of books, first love, fantasy, and an unusual friendship with a talking cat, *The Cat Who Saved Books* is a story for those for whom books are so much more than words on paper. Translated from the Japanese by Louise Heal Kawai. Cats, books, young love, and adventure: catnip for a variety of readers! –Kirkus

cats in literature: *I Could Pee on This* Francesco Marciuliano, 2012-08-03 Animal lovers will laugh out loud at the quirkiness of their feline friends with these insightful and curious poems from the singular minds of funny cats. In this hilarious, bestselling book of tongue-in-cheek poetry. The author of the internationally syndicated comic strip Sally Forth helps cats unlock their creative potential and explain their odd behavior to ignorant humans. With titles like *Who Is That on Your Lap?*, *This Is My Chair*, *Kneel Before Me*, *Nudge*, and *Some of My Best Friends Are Dogs*, the poems collected in *I Could Pee on This* perfectly capture the inner workings of the cat psyche. With photos of the cat authors throughout, this whimsical animal book reveals kitties at their wackiest, and most exasperating (but always lovable). Ideal for that crazy cat lady or cat mom/dad in your life this collection of poems makes for the perfect cat-themed gift for anyone who's obsessed with our feline friends.

cats in literature: All My Cats Bohumil Hrabal, 2019-11-26 A literary master’s story about the aggravations and great joys of cats, from “a most sophisticated novelist, with a gusting humor and a hushed tenderness of detail” (Julian Barnes) In the autumn of 1965, flush with the unexpected success of his first published books, the Czech author Bohumil Hrabal bought a cottage in Kersko. From then until his death in 1997, he divided his time between Prague and his country retreat, where he wrote and tended to a community of feral cats. Over the years, his relationship to cats grew deeper and more complex, becoming a measure of the pressures, both private and public, that impinged on his life as a writer. *All My Cats*, written in 1983 after a serious car accident, is a confessional memoir, the chronicle of an author who becomes overwhelmed. As he is driven to the brink of madness by the dilemmas created by his indulgent love for the animals, there are episodes of intense brutality as he controls the feline population. Yet in the end, *All My Cats* is a book about Hrabal’s relationship to nature, about the unlikely sources of redemption that come to him unbidden, like a gift from the cosmos—and about love.

cats in literature: Writers and Their Cats Alison Nastasi, 2018-08-21 Come for the behind-the-scenes stories. stay for the cutest picture of a kitten-covered Stephen King ever. — O, The Oprah Magazine Every great writer needs a mews: Mark Twain, Alice Walker, Haruki Murakami, Ursula K. Le Guin—this volume celebrates many famous authors who have shared their homes and

hearts with furry feline friends. From the six-toed kitties who still inhabit the Ernest Hemingway Home and Museum in Florida to the mewling muses of mystery writer Lilian Jackson Braun, cats are clearly, in the words of Gloria Steinem, a writer's most logical and agreeable companion. • Features photographs and stories from 45 famous authors that capture the special bond between wordsmith and mouser • Sorted by alphabetical order, you'll see photographs from some of the most well-known authors including Beverly Cleary, Mark Twain, Stephen King, Sylvia Plath, and many more • Alison Nastasi is a journalist and the author of *Artists and Their Cats*, also from Chronicle Books. She lives in Los Angeles, California Full of charming anecdotes and feline whimsy, this collection is catnip for lit nerds. — Shelf Awareness • Makes a charming and thoughtful gift for any fan of great literature and cats • An excellent addition to your coffee table books for guests to enjoy browsing

cats in literature: *The Ralph Steadman Book of Cats* Ralph Steadman, 2012 In this charming, funny, and outlandish book, cult-favorite artist Ralph Steadman turns his unflinching eye and his ruthless pen to cats of all varieties.

cats in literature: The Naming of Cats T. S. Eliot, 2021-11-02 The Naming of Cats is a difficult matter, It isn't just one of your holiday games; You may think at first I'm as mad as a hatter When I tell you, a cat must have THREE DIFFERENT NAMES. The first poem in Eliot's *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats* is a brilliant introduction to the fabulous world of Cats, featuring names such as Bombalurina and Munkustrap - made famous by the recent film! The seventh gorgeous Cats picture book with lively and colourful illustrations by Arthur Robins. Perfect for reading aloud, singing or performing!

cats in literature: 100 Cats Who Changed Civilization Sam Stall, 2011-12-06 The ultimate gift for cat lovers everywhere—100 illustrated and unbelievably true tales of the remarkable felines who made their mark on science, history, art, government, and religion. If you don't believe that one cat has the power to alter civilization, then you've obviously never heard of Tibbles, the cat who single-handedly wiped out an entire species. Or Ahmedabad, a Siamese kitten who sparked riots throughout Pakistan. Or Snowball, the cat who helped to convict dozens of murderers and criminals. Or Felix, the first cat to explore outer space. These are just 4 of the 100 Cats Who Changed Civilization, and this book honors their extra-ordinary contributions to science, history, art, government, religion, and more. Here, you'll also meet cats who... • filed a lawsuit • were slapped with a restraining order • inspired great works of literature and classical music • telephoned the police to save the life of their owner These beautifully illustrated true stories are a tribute to the intelligence, bravery, and loving nature of cats all over the world.

cats in literature: Was the Cat in the Hat Black? Philip Nel, 2017-07-06 Racism is resilient, duplicitous, and endlessly adaptable, so it is no surprise that America is again in a period of civil rights activism. A significant reason racism endures is because it is structural: it's embedded in culture and in institutions. One of the places that racism hides-and thus perhaps the best place to oppose it-is books for young people. *Was the Cat in the Hat Black?* presents five serious critiques of the history and current state of children's literature tempestuous relationship with both implicit and explicit forms of racism. The book fearlessly examines topics both vivid-such as *The Cat in the Hat's* roots in blackface minstrelsy-and more opaque, like how the children's book industry can perpetuate structural racism via whitewashed covers even while making efforts to increase diversity. Rooted in research yet written with a lively, crackling touch, Nel delves into years of literary criticism and recent sociological data in order to show a better way forward. Though much of what is proposed here could be endlessly argued, the knowledge that what we learn in childhood imparts both subtle and explicit lessons about whose lives matter is not debatable. The text concludes with a short and stark proposal of actions everyone-reader, author, publisher, scholar, citizen- can take to fight the biases and prejudices that infect children's literature. While *Was the Cat in the Hat Black?* does not assume it has all the answers to such a deeply systemic problem, its audacity should stimulate discussion and activism.

cats in literature: Varjak Paw S. F. Said, 2010 Guided by the spirit of his legendary

Mesopotamian ancestor, Jalal, Varjak Paw, a pure-bred cat, leaves his home and pampered existence and sets out to save his feline family from the evil Gentleman who took away their owner, the Contessa.

cats in literature: The Good Luck Cat Joy Harjo, 2000 Because her good luck cat Woogie has already used up eight of his nine lives in narrow escapes from disaster, a Native American girl worries when he disappears.

cats in literature: *The Cat's Table* Michael Ondaatje, 2012-06-12 From Michael Ondaatje: an electrifying novel, by turns thrilling and deeply moving—one of his most vividly rendered and compelling works of fiction to date. In the early 1950s, an eleven-year-old boy boards a huge liner bound for England. At mealtimes, he is placed at the lowly Cat's Table with an eccentric and unforgettable group of grownups and two other boys. As the ship makes its way across the Indian Ocean, through the Suez Canal, into the Mediterranean, the boys find themselves immersed in the worlds and stories of the adults around them. At night they spy on a shackled prisoner—his crime and fate a galvanizing mystery that will haunt them forever. Looking back from deep within adulthood, and gradually moving back and forth from the decks and holds of the ship to the years that follow the narrator unfolds a spellbinding and layered tale about the magical, often forbidden discoveries of childhood and the burdens of earned understanding, about a life-long journey that began unexpectedly with a sea voyage.

cats in literature: 99 Lives Howard Loxtton, 2002 99 Lives is a colorful journey through the feline world from ancient Egypt to the present. Along the way we meet ninety-nine cats of great distinction--from Oscar, a World War II seafaring cat, to the honored Siamese who attended the coronation of the King of Siam. Spirited illustrations, enchanting photographs and enlightening stories reveal the secrets of the feline mystique. -- Page [4] cover.

cats in literature: *Historical Cats* Peter Gethers, Norman Stiles, 1996 In the tradition of French for Cats, Norton, star of The Cat Who Went to Paris, journeys back in time to portray some of history's funniest felines, including Nathan Hale's cat, who had but nine lives to give for his country, and Marie Antoinette's cat, who said, Let them eat dry food. Fully illustrated, Historical Cats is truly an irresistible collection of hysterical cats. Siza A.

cats in literature: Into the Wild (Warriors, Book 1) Erin Hunter, 2023-04-17 Take your first steps into the wilderness with Rusty the house cat as he leaves his home to go and live in the wild. A thrilling new feline fantasy series that draws you into a vivid animal world.

cats in literature: A Book of Cats and Creatures Ruth Manning-Sanders, 1981 It's not only black cats that have magic properites: here are all kinds of cats and other creatures, and some of them started life as something, or someone quite different. In these folk tales from all over the world, Ruth Manning-Sanders' direct style of storytelling keeps readers spellbound, wondering whether these lovable everyday animals are always just what they appear to be!

cats in literature: Cat Life Amy Shojai, 2021-03-05 Filled with beautiful color photographs of these furry friends, this book reveals virtually everything needed to appreciate this mysterious, lovable companion. Chapter One, Evolutionary Cat, traces the domestic feline back to the Paleocene Era, then introduces its big cat relatives. Sidebars highlight the fascinating evolutionary differences between big cats and small cats, which clearly explain why the smaller kitties became household favorites. Cats have been both revered and scorned throughout history. Egyptian law protected sacred cats, and the beauty of Egyptian women was measured by their resemblance to the cat. But the cat's spiritual heyday came to a halt in the Middle Ages, when the Christian church crushed the worship of cat-gods. Yet, in the seventeenth century, cat popularity rose again as the French aristocracy welcomed the cat back into polite society. Chapter Two, Cultured Cat, is a survey of artistic homage paid to the cat. From Aesop's fables to Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland, cats have been featured as analogy, metaphor, and hero. From the Egyptians to Leonardo da Vinci and beyond, the cat has been featured in paintings and other media. Notable cat lovers include Winston Churchill, President Lincoln, and President Roosevelt, whose cat, Slippers, often attended White House dinners. Enemies of the cat include Hitler, Alexander the Great, and Napoleon. Chapter Three,

Physical Cat, is a guide to understanding and caring for your cat. First, each of the cat's senses and physical attributes are described, to reveal how they see the world. Important cat care issues are discussed, such as whether you should get your cat fixed (definitely!) and what ailments your cat is likely to suffer from. Also provided are tips for proper training, advice on when to vaccinate, and information about choosing and caring for kittens. Cat Life closes with a Gallery of Breeds, a parade of fascinating cat types with descriptions of their unique personalities and special characteristics. Overflowing with endearing photographs and enlightening, entertaining text, Cat Life is sure to capture the fancy of ailurophiles everywhere.

cats in literature: Mouse Vs. Cat in Chinese Literature , 2019 Wilt Idema presents Chinese tales about cats and mice, situating them in the Chinese literary tradition as a whole, and within Chinese imaginative depictions of animals. In the literatures of the ancient and modern Near East, South Asia, and medieval Europe, animal fables exhibited a range of anthropomorphic views, but Chinese literature is notable for its relative paucity of extended animal tales and rarity of talking animals. From ancient Egypt to China, rodents have long been vilified as thieves of grain in agrarian society, in perennial war with felines. Through varied depictions of the cat-mouse relationship, this set of tales allows to reader to consider the metaphorical roles of these animals in the Chinese literary imagination and to ponder their unusually prominent--and verbal--role in these stories. Of central focus is the legal case of the mouse against the cat in the underworld court of King Yama, a popular topic in the traditional ballad literature of late-imperial China and of present-day Chinese folk literature. Idema traces the development and variations of this theme of mice and cats in classical literature; to other stories of mice and cats in traditional vernacular literature; and to stories about the wedding of the mouse to the cat and the war between mice and cats. An epilogue traces the treatment of enmity between rodents and felines worldwide, and a foreword by Haiyan Lee explores the relevance of these tales to posthumanist consideration of human-animal relations. This entertaining volume will appeal to readers interested in Chinese literature and society, comparative literature, and animal studies in the humanities --

cats in literature: Murthy's Cattage Howard M Chapin, 2023-07-18 From Cheshire to Puss in Boots, cats have played a prominent role in literature for centuries. This unique reference guide examines the lives and literary portrayals of hundreds of feline characters, providing biographical information and analysis of their significance. Perfect for cat lovers, literary scholars, and curious readers of all ages. This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work is in the public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.

cats in literature: Cats In Literature Series Gr. 3-6 ,

cats in literature: A Book of Cats Dorothy Margaret Stuart , 2017-04-20 The cat -- a goddess, an enigma, a playmate and a friend. Dorothy M. Stuart approaches her subject along four main roads: archaeology, history, legend and literature. The Ancient Egyptian Mau is here; the enchanted cats of Irish legend; the Gib of Gammer Gurton s Needle. Hodge and Selima, Jeffry and Dinah refused to be left out; but there are less familiar examples, too: the cat which voluntarily shared the Earl of Southampton s captivity in the Tower; the kitten in whose defence John Keats had a stand up fight with a brutal butcher-boy of Hampstead; the delinquent who at dead of night gnawed the strings of her master s lute. Graymalkin, the witches familiar, comes into the picture; and we catch fascinating glimpses of two furry sympathizers licking the tears from Florence Nightingale s cheeks, and of Cardinal Richelieu solemnly adding something on behalf of a cat and her kittens to the modest pension assigned by His Eminence to Mademoiselle Marie de Gournay, Montaigne s polished female friend. Dorothy M. Stuart is better known for her elegant and polished biographies, but in

this short book we see a lighter side of her pen in an appreciation of feline company.

cats in literature: Cat Scan Robert Byrne, Teresa Skelton, 1983-01-01 Gathers poems, quotations, anecdotes, and little-known facts about cats, their history, and their relationship with people

cats in literature: Cat Scan Robert Byrne, Teresa Skelton, 1984-11-01 Gathers poems, quotations, anecdotes, and little-known facts about cats, their history, and their relationship with people

cats in literature: Particularly Cats Doris Lessing, 1989 Doris Lessing recounts the cats that have moved and amused her, from the kittens that overran her childhood home to the wrenching decline of El Magnifico, whose story unfolds in a new essay, appearing here for the first time. Particularly Cats also evokes Lessing's own story in relation to cats, how they affect her and she them, communicating in a language of mood and gesture that all cat-owners will recognize.

cats in literature: The Sophisticated Cat Joyce Carol Oates, Daniel Halpern, 1992 The eternal cat is captured in the prose and poetry of no fewer than 99 of history's and modern day's finest writers--from Herodotus to Hemingway, Keats to T.S. Eliot. An utterly irresistible book to browse, The Sophisticated Cat is the perfect gift for cosmopolitan cat-lovers of every literary stripe.

cats in literature: On Cats Doris Lessing, 2012-03-29 A collection of charming and celebrated writings about cats, from Doris Lessing, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature.

cats in literature: Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats Thomas Stearns Eliot, 1982 The inspiration for Andrew Lloyd Webber's iconic musical CATS, and its upcoming movie adaptation, directed by Tom Hooper and starring Taylor Swift (Bombalurina), Idris Elba (Macavity the Mystery Cat), Dame Judi Dench (Old Deuteronomy), Ian McKellen (Gus the Theatre Cat), James Corden (Bustopher Jones), Jennifer Hudson (Grizabella), Jason Derulo (Rum Tum Tugger), and Rebel Wilson (Jennyanydots). Cats Some are sane, and some are mad. Some are good, and some are bad . . . These lovable cat poems were written by T. S. Eliot for his godchildren and continue to delight children and grown-ups. Eliot's beloved cat poems are a curious and artful homage to felines young and old, merry and fierce, small and unmistakably round, and Edward Gorey's graphic interpretations are sure to charm.

cats in literature: The Cat Encyclopedia DK, 2014-07-01 DK's new cat book, The Cat Encyclopedia, includes an introduction to feline anatomy, expert advice on kitten and cat care, and a celebration of cats in art and culture. Stunning photos of cat breeds from around the world form the core of the book, with information on the characteristics, origins, and behavior of each cat, as well as famous patrons of the breed. The Cat Encyclopedia is a celebration of all things feline, with a fully illustrated catalog of cat breeds including those recognized by TICA, CFA, GCCF and FIFe. The Cat Encyclopedia contains everything you need to know about cats in one easy-reference volume.

cats in literature: The Literary Cat Jean-Claude Suarès, Seymour Chwast, 1977

cats in literature: The Garden of Departed Cats Bilge Karasu, 2003 A surreal, utterly unique Turkish novel about a human chess game.

cats in literature: Cat Katharine M. Rogers, 2019-07 Cat traces the relationship between humans and the cat from its original domestication in ancient Egypt c. 2000 BC, through the centuries as a utilitarian rodent catcher, its gradual acceptance as a charming and amiable pet, and its present status as a companion on a par with the dog. Long before people valued cats, however, they recognised something special about them. Their graceful, fluid movements, and their self-detachment even as they live in our homes, seems to indicate strange, even supernatural powers. The peculiar fascination of the cat, indeed, is the diversity of images it projects -- at once sweet and ferocious, affectionate and independent, elegant and earthy, cosily domestic and eerie.

cats in literature: So You Think You Know about Cats? Ronald Rosen, Francine Hornberger, 2006 Anyone who has a cat would like to think that they know something about their feline friend - but deep down, everyone knows that cats are as elusive as can be. An entertaining quiz book that performs the dual function of testing a person's kitty knowledge and - by providing extensive answer pages to fill out the questions - actively filling in any gaps. Features 50 quizzes on

various topics, in several formats - multiple choice, true and false, match-ups and straight question and answer.

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